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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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1873.

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL.

Daily and Weekly.

LEADING

PENNSYLVANIA PAPER.

A paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past as a guaranty for the future. But it will not be content to pursue the beaten path. The re-election of General Grant insures for the country a lengthened period of prosperity and progress. The press is destined to play a still more important part as the educator of the people and leader of public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will not be content to lag in the rear, but will be ully up to the times in whatever relates to the general welfare.

AS A PAPER OF PROGRESS, it will hereafter continue to maintain its character in this espect.

As a PAPER OF OPINION, the COMMERCIAL will continue to discuss men and measures with perfect freedom, and with an eye single to the public good, believing that the principles of the Republican party will thereby be best subserved.

As an INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will criticise its own party for its own good; believing that in ree discussion and the independent expression f opinion only can our institutions be preserved.

As a BUSINESS PAPER, the COMMERCIAL will hereafter, as heretofore, employ very agency it can command to meet the vants of the public. Now that the period of arty excitement has been passed, it will pay pecial attention to topics interesting in the ounding cities, the great marts of trade, iving prominence to Science, Art, Invention, griculture and Manufactures.

As a PAPER FOR THE FAMILY it will ive reading calculated to instruct, improve he reading taste and improve the mind.

As a MARKET PAPER its reports will lways possess a special excellence, so that the uyer and seller can at all times consult its olumns for every necessary information as to rices and the spirit of the different branches f trade. Everything that is bought and sold n the Pittsburgh market and the leading marets of the country will receive careful attenion, and at a large cost.

The country is about entering on a period of nexampled prosperity. The field of journalsm is constantly expanding, and will be the im of the COMMERCIAL to hold a position t it along with the leading journals of the ountry.

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BISHOP'S ROCK.

A Legend of Lake Hopatcong.

About one hundred and fifty years ago a small company of the sect called Rogerenes settled and built a village on the southwestern border of Lake Hopatcong, which lies between the counties of Morris and Sussex, in the northern part of New Jersey. A cemetery containing gravestones, with legible inscriptions, still remains. The daughter of one of these Rogerenes, named Bishop, fell in love with an enterprising Rogerene youth. She was beautiful and young, and the love was reciprocated. But an Indian chief, Black Hawk, also fell in love with Marie—for such was the name—and was jealous of the young man. One night Marie and her lover went sailing on the lake. They came to what is now called Bishop's Rock, and there remained for several hours, when the girl, noticing how fast the time was passing, proposed that they should return home. The young man rose up accordingly, but had no sooner gained his feet, than he suddenly threw up his arms and fell forward on his face. At the same instant Black Hawk leaped from the bushes, scalping-knife in hand. As he sprang forward, her Marie, rendered frantic by the extremity of the danger, sprang at the Indian, and, with one frantic push, sent him headlong over the rock.

His brains were scattered upon the stones below, upon which he fell. The lover was carried safely back to the Rogerene village; was cured and took to life by the faithful Marie, and the pair were at length united in the holy marriage. Their lives were long and peaceful; and when, in the lapse of years, Marie was about to pass away forever, her bright spirit lingered only to see her mind was filled with a longing to see her childhood's home; and that was impossible, so she charged her friends to bury her where her heroic deed had been accomplished. They promised, but after her death it was not fulfilled. Her children, however, could not rest and every moonlight night throughout the warm months of the year, in the hours between the hours of ten and eleven, the ghost of a beautiful young lady."

The story concludes in this manner: Everybody is not fortunate enough to see this vision, but all who do, it is said, may look for great success and great happiness in their matrimonial ventures. Many young couples often watch off the rock, between the hours aforesaid, in order to see the apparition.

SOCIETY.

A New Idea—Boys Under Twenty-One not Admitted.

[From the New York Express.]

We don't know whether the mammas are going to adopt the plan of a lady of position and fashion in a neighboring city, who recently gave a grand ball, to bring her daughter out. A great consternation was created when the beaux ascertained that none under twenty-one were to be invited. The indignation of the dancing boys who wore swallow tails and white vests, who think society a barren waste without them, knew no bounds. The audacity of such a movement! They would make a sad flower of that anonymous young girl the rest of the winter. She should not be taken out once in the German. But the decree had gone forth; the handwriting was on the wall. Boys under twenty-one not expected. Society gave the mamma credit, first, that boys under age were not desirous as parties for her daughter, and why waste so much good eating and drinking on them? for boys have great appetites, notwithstanding the swallow-tails and white cravats, and dancing the German is one of the most appetizing exercises. Next mamma. Finding she has given such offence to the boy beaux, has announced her intention of having another, and inviting all the boys, and they each declare they won't go if she could give her friend ball without the boys they don't consider invited. The fair young ladies of the German here said the wall flowers were such a modest stock-forth, only imagine the consternation—twenty-one the utmost limit of age admitted to the ball at Delmonico's next week. What, the beaux scant eighteen, who have seen everything, and "there's nothing in it," and who feel as if they were forty, would buckle on their armor and have a new sensation.

HARRISBURG.

The Pennsylvania Legislature.

Committees of the House Announced—Liberal Distribution of the Allegheny County Delegation—Accident to the House Clerk—Contested Judgeship—Bills Reported and Read in Place—Both Houses Adjourn Till Monday Next.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, Pa., January 16, 1873.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met earlier than usual, dispensed with the reading of the Journal, and went to work drawing committees on contested seats. After completing them—being interrupted by the Convention to count the vote for Governor—the House adjourned until Monday evening.

Committees Announced.

Speaker Elliott announced his committees. Allegheny is represented by two to four members on every important committee. Mr. Wainwright is chairman of Vice and Immorality, the committee to which all liquor bills will be referred. He is also on Banks, Corporations, Railroads, Ways and Means. Mr. McCormick is Chairman of Congressional Apportionment, and is on most of the important committees of the House. Mr. Ballantine is chairman of Military Affairs, and is scattered around pretty thickly in the other committees, being on no less than four contested seat committees. Mr. Ramsey is Chairman of the Printing Committee, and is on the Judiciary, general, and Judiciary, local, and on almost every other committee, besides three contested seat committees. Mr. Newmeyer is on both the Judiciary Committees, on Federal Relations, Estates and Escheats and several others. Mr. Samples is on Railroads, Passenger Railways and three contested seat committees. Mr. Young is on Agricultural, Education, Roads, Bridges and Ferries, Accounts and on one contested seat. So you see, by the above, that the Allegheny delegation has a better show this session than ever before.

The five contested seat committees which were drawn are almost unanimously Republican, the Democrats challenging only two Republicans who were drawn from the box.

Another Contested Seat.

Representative Dailey presented the petition of George McGowen contesting the seat of R. C. Titternary, of Philadelphia.

Order of the day being called, the Chair submitted the question as to whether the petition should be received or not. The House was almost unanimously in favor of suspending the rules and receiving the petition—yeas 79, nays 14. It was presented.

Accident to the House Clerk.

Gen. Selfridge, Clerk of the House, slipped on the steps of the Speaker's stand immediately after going into session and severely injured his leg. He had to be carried to his rooms at the Keystone Hotel.

SENATE.

The Speaker appointed Mr. Alexander, of Philadelphia, an additional member of the Committee on Contested Seats and Apportionment.

Bills Reported.

The following bills were reported from committees:

To legalize defects or omissions in sheriffs' deeds acknowledged, or that may be acknowledged.

To prevent the deposits of carcases of dead animals in rivers in Allegheny county.

Contested Judgeship.

The petition of Chas. F. Miller, contesting the seat of Stokes L. Roberts, Associate Law Judge of Bucks and Montgomery counties, was presented. A committee was ordered to be drawn on next Monday. This makes the sixth contested election committee ordered the present session.

Bills in Place.

Mr. Anderson—Act to incorporate the Shoe and Leather Bank of Pittsburgh; also, act to regulate church societies.

Mr. Playford—Supplement to act incorporating the borough of Waynesburg.

Mr. McKinley—Act to provide for the management of the Venango county workhouse. Passed.

Mr. Maclay—Act to allow the Oil City Railroad to increase its capital stock.

Act to incorporate the Sewickley water works. Passed.

The act to charter a bridge company at Oil City being under consideration, Mr. McClure offered a bill that the bridge should be contracted for and built within six months. He at the same time declared that he was opposed to the legislature granting a charter to any corporation, however humble its means and great its purpose, but hereafter no bridge should be constructed for and built within six months. At the same time declared that he was opposed to the legislature granting a charter to any corporation, however humble its means and great its purpose, but heretofore made, shall be invalid on that account.

Mr. Rutan Opposes Rushing Things.

Mr. Rutan gave notice in the Senate this morning that he would hereafter object to the suspension of the rules which require all bills to be referred to the Standing Committees in all cases. Bills were read in once and the rules suspended so frequently now, that Senators were expected by their constituents to pass all their local bills the day they were read, and they are blamed if they do not. Since this way bills are often passed containing the most objectionable features, and every one, except perhaps the Senator introducing the bill, entirely unaware of the fact, as no opportunity is given for examination. When he (Mr. Rutan) was Speaker of the Senate he had noticed that objectionable bills were frequently passed in this manner, and as the Speaker of the Senate could not object, he proposed to do so himself in every case, unless it was under extraordinary circumstances and after the bill had been submitted for examination.

Adjourned till Monday evening.

Special to the Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 17, 1873.

Organization of Contested Seat Committees.

Both Houses adjourned yesterday, but many of the members remained over to attend the organization of the various Contested Election committees. They all organized with the exception of the De Lacy committee, in a case from Luzerne. In this committee there were three members from Allegheny, viz: Ballantine, Sample and Ramsey; four were from Philadelphia. The three members from Allegheny, together with Henry, of Cambria, and Latta, of Westmoreland, refused to organize unless they got the Secretaryship of the same. The chairman of the committees are as follows:

Reynolds vs. Quigley, Charles Porter, Philadelphia; Faunce vs. Ash, Levi Pritzer, Chester; Waddell vs. Koons, Adam Albright, Philadelphia; Phillips vs. Kissner, John Lamon, Philadelphia; Williams vs. De Lacy, Jno. T. Mitchell, Tioga. The chief clerks, messengers, shorthand reporters unknown to your readers.

Senator Graham returned home last night.

Inauguration of Governor.

Active preparations are in progress for the inauguration of Governor Hartranft.

Election for United States Senator.

As there seems to be some misunderstanding as to when the election for United States Senator will take place, it may be well to state that each House votes separately "on the third Tuesday of January at three o'clock P. M., if the Legislature shall have organized before the second Tuesday." On the following day, at twelve o'clock M., the two Houses meet in joint convention, and the journals of the two Houses are then read and certificates signed. Nominations must be made two days prior, and communicated to each House. Very little interest, however, is manifested on either side as to the formula yet to be gone through with.

Special to the Pittsburg Press.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 20, 1873.

SENATE.

The Senate met at seven o'clock.

Nominations for United States Senator.

On motion of Mr. Rutan, the rules were suspended for the purpose of going into nomination for United States Senator.

Mr. Graham nominated Hon. Simon Cameron.

Mr. Petrikin nominated William A. Wallace.

Mr. Collins nominated Hendrick B. Wright.

Mr. McClure said he was not ready, as the Liberal Republican caucus had not met.

Mr. Humphreys was named teller on behalf of the Senate.

Nomination Confirmed.

General Provost was unanimously confirmed as Major General of the First Division of Pennsylvania Militia.

Bill Signed.

The Governor sent in a message that he had signed the bill for an increase of the Governor's salary.

Pay of Committee Clerks.

Mr. Rutan offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the clerks and other officers employed by any committee or officers of either House shall only receive compensation when the additional labor is great, and if not, the officers shall be paid *pro rata* as such.

The House resolution continuing Governor Geary as a member of the Centennial Committee was passed unanimously.

Joint Committee on Contested Judgship.

The Senate met in joint session in the House of Representatives to draw a committee in the contested case of Judge of Bucks and Montgomery counties. The following committee was drawn: Senators McClay, Strang, Wafel and Weakley; Representatives Brown, Burkholder, McCormick, Mahon, Mitchell, Mylin, Semple, Shortt and Kaufman—all Republicans.

Governor's Message Read.

Out of respect to Governor Geary his Message was read.

Contest Abandoned.

The petition contesting the seat of Titternary by McGowan was withdrawn.

Inauguration Ceremonies.

The following organizations arrived in town to day for the purpose of participating in the inauguration ceremonies: Cameron club of Philadelphia, one hundred strong. Senator Alexander, Marshal; Hartfranft club, William B. Mann, President; Veteran club, Philadelphia, and the State Fencibles, Capt. W. Ryan. There is not room in the hotels for one-fourth of the visitors. The demonstration to-morrow bids fair to be the grandest display that has ever taken place in Harrisburg. There are a great number of prominent Pittsburghers in town. The Rev. Charles Avery Holmes, pastor of the North avenue M. E. Church, of Allegheny, has been selected to officiate to-morrow.

B.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 15, 1873.

The dispatch from this city to the COMMERCIAL, published on Monday last, giving the titles of quite a number of bills to be introduced into the Legislature, was not sent by our regular correspondent, but by a telegraphic reporter, and was not seen, before publication, by the editors.

So far as the paragraph therein, purporting to give the title of a bill to transfer the funds of the Sanitary Fair from its present hands to the Poor Board, may be construed into a reflection on the worthy gentlemen who have, heretofore, managed those funds, I desire to say that the reporter exceeded his authority in making any comments on the bill, and that he had no right to use our columns for any such purpose.

That there is such a bill here is probably true, but I have not seen it, and it has not been introduced in either house as yet. If it should be presented I can safely say that it will meet a prompt *quietus*. No such proposition will be entertained for one moment. It would be an outrageous violation of private rights, which could not possibly be accomplished.

The management of this fund, as I have good reason to know, has been of the most honorable kind, and creditable to those concerned in it. I cheerfully bear my testimony to this fact, and the gentlemen who have faithfully borne this trust will not need any disclaimer from me to enable them to believe that no one connected with this paper is capable of inflicting an injury upon their good name.

In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Delamater called up and had passed a bill extending the mining and manufacturing law to the production of petroleum. Under this act, corporations for the production of oil can be formed as mining and manufacturing companies are now formed.

Mr. Humphreys called up, for the Speaker, and had passed, a bill to combine the Union and First Baptist churches of Pittsburgh, into one corporation.

Mr. McClure called up and had passed an act to incorporate the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian church. This act was rendered necessary by the union of the Old and New School churches, in order to incorporate the two Home Mission boards into one.

The Governor sent into the Senate the nominations of J. S. Winans for Major General of the Militia in the counties of Beaver, Butler and Washington; John McCurdy to be Superintendent of Public Printing; and T. C. McDowell to be chief of the Bureau of Labor and Mining Statistics. These nominations lie over for days under the rule.

Mr. Waddell will introduce to-morrow (Thursday) the petition of sundry citizens of Bucks and Montgomery counties contesting the election of Judge Roberts, of Montgomery. In the election, last fall, some votes were cast for Judge Roberts as "President Judge of the *First* Judicial District," and some for him as "President Judge of the *Seventh* Judicial district." Votes were also cast for Mr. Miller, the Republican candidate, with both captions. Now, the Fifth Judicial District is Allegheny, and Bucks and Montgomery are the Seventh. If only the votes cast for Judge of the Seventh district were counted, Miller was elected; if *all* were counted, without regard to caption, Roberts was elected. The Governor, on this showing, commissioned Roberts. He (Roberts) has since held court under his commission, and has now resigned, apparently with the intention of cutting off this contest; but the contest will go on nevertheless.

The petitions in the Lancaster cases were presented in the House to-day, and one from Philadelphia, and the House fixed to-night to draw the committees.

The bill to increase the Governor's salary came up on third reading in the Senate, and on the final passage the yeas were 18, nays 12. Randall and Nagle voted aye, with the Republicans, and Messrs. Lamb and Lowry as Democrats. In the House, the vote on concurrence in the amendment increasing the salary from $9,000, the sum fixed by the House, to $10,000, was yeas 55, nays 44.

No bills were read in the House; in the Senate the following is the substance of the bills read and acted on, so far as they interest the West:

The joint resolution for final adjournment, introduced by Mr. McKinley, fixes the 30th of March for that event. It will hardly pass in that shape.

An act to cure the defect or omissions in Sheriff's deeds, is a general bill, and provides that no omission or defect in the acknowledgment of a deed to the purchaser, heretofore made, shall be invalid on that account.

An act to legalize provisions heretofore made in marriages of married women, is also a general law, and provides that no covenant or provision for an attorney's collection fees in any deed of mortgage heretofore executed by husband and wife, securing realty to the wife, shall be deemed unlawful.

An act relative to the election of councilmen in the borough of Oil City, to repeal the third section of the borough act of 1871, so far as that borough is concerned. This is the section which establishes cumulative voting in the election of borough councilmen.

An act for an additional Notary Public in Fayette county, authorizes one to be appointed for Uniontown, and a similar act for Allegheny county, provides for an additional one in Pittsburgh.

A further supplement to the act consolidating the wards of Pittsburgh for school purposes, consolidates the seventh ward of Allegheny with the old city for educational purposes, fixes the 1st of January for the expiration of the School Directors' terms in Oakland, and that elections for School Directors on the South Side shall hereafter be held on the first Tuesday of December in each year, and that wherever any districts are hereafter annexed to the city they shall be considered as consolidated with the city for educational purposes, and the first election of directors thereafter in such districts shall be held at the time of the first annual city election thereafter.

A supplement to the act incorporating the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Westmoreland changes the name to the Penn Savings Bank, and reduces the shares from $100 to $50 each.

An act to incorporate the Indiana County Deposit Bank, names Jno. Ralston, Wm. Lytle, R. M. Gibson, D. R. M. McClunesney, S. F. Townsend, Wm. M. Stewart, A. M. Stewart, B. K. Jamison, S. Truby, Harry White, E. H. Wilson, D. Thomas, J. K. Thompson, C. Empfield, M. C. Getty, A. S. Nesbit, J. H. Kinter and Jno. A Stewart as corporators, and is the same bill as was introduced last year. It confers general banking powers, and gives the bank power to charge any rate of interest that may be agreed on.

A supplement to the act for the education of soldiers' orphans, introduced by Mr. McKinley, extends the time of pupilage from sixteen years of age to eighteen. All soldiers' orphans are now discharged at the age of sixteen.

A supplement to an act incorporating a company for erecting a bridge over the Youghiogheny at McKeesport, fixes the elevation of said bridge at *forty* feet above low water mark instead of *sixty*.

A supplement to the Allegheny county license law, read by Mr. Humphries, extends the provisions of that law to the borough of McKeesport and Mifflin township, those districts being now exempt from its operation.

Mr. McClure read a joint resolution in favor of three new amendments to the United States Constitution, limiting the Presidential term, fixing the term at six years, and making United States Senators elective by the people.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 16, 1873.

Both Houses adjourned to-day to Monday night at seven o'clock.

In the Senate, Mr. Waddell presented a petition contesting the election of Judge Roberts, of Montgomery. Monday night was fixed for joint session to draw the committee, and the House concurred.

The bill to authorize an additional Notary in Pittsburgh, was called up, the number increased to two, and passed. As there are now only eighty notaries in Pittsburgh, the House will probably increase the number to ten or twenty. Now is the chance for whoever wants to be a notary.

Mr. McKinley called up a bill, reported this morning from committee, to erect a bridge over the Allegheny at Oil City. When the last section was reached, Mr. McClure offered an amendment to compel the construction within six months after contract, and to compel contractors to give security. Pending the consideration of this, the bill was postponed for the present.

Mr. Graham had the bill to establish a water works in Sewickley called up and passed. The clause in the bill exempting the bonds authorized to be issued from taxation was amended by adding "except for State purposes."

The two Houses met in joint convention and counted the vote for Governor. The usual certificates were made out and signed.

The House sat this night until after midnight, drawing Contested Election committees. Four were drawn then, and one this morning, and a petition contesting Titterman's seat, Philadelphia, was presented, making six contests in all, beside the one for Judge. The committe in Titterman's case will be drawn on Monday.

Nothing else was done in the House, this and the counting of the Governor's vote keeping it in session till 2 P. M.

Among the bills introduced to-day in the Senate were the following:

An act relating to churches, congregations or religious societies, introduced by Mr. Graham, provides that the societies may elect the minister, elder and deacons as trustees, or the deacons alone, as they prefer.

Supplement to the act incorporating the Sloe and Leather Savings Bank of Pittsburgh gives power to the stockholders to increase the capital stock to $500,000, and to the Directors to change the name of the bank.

Mr. Culler's bill to establish an additional insane asylum provides for a new hospital for the counties of Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren, McKean, Elk, Forest, Cameron and Clarion. The Governor is to appoint Commissioners to select as a site, a farm of not less than 250 acres.

An act to authorize the Oil Creek and Allegheny River Railroad to increase its capital stock, authorizes an increase of $200,000 to be applied to construction and equipment.

A further supplement to an act to authorize the erection of a poor house in the county of Venango, read by Mr. McKinley and referred to Finance Committee, supplies the necessary legislation to enable the county authorities to put their workhouse in operation. The provisions are similar to those for workhouses in other counties. The rules were suspended and the bill passed.

A further supplement to the act incorporating the borough of Waynesburg, introduced by Mr. Playford and referred, gives to the Burgess power to fine or commit for vagrancy, disorderly conduct or breach of the peace; authorizes him to appoint the borough constable, and compels the constable to make return to court of all persons selling liquor in that borough.

The Speaker of the House announced the Standing Committees to-day. I enclose the list for both Houses. You will see that Allegheny has been very well taken care of all round.

The following are the contested election committees, so far drawn:

Reynolds (Republican) vs. Quigley (Democrat), Luzerne county—Messrs. Titternary, Strock, Ash, Smith, McCullough and Porter, of Philadelphia, Sample, of Allegheny, Henry, of Cambria, and Stier, of Northampton—all Republicans but Stier.

Faunce (Liberal Republican) vs. Ash (Republican)—Messrs. Welch, Hancock and Levering, of Philadelphia, Newmyer, of Allegheny, Jones, of Susquehanna, Prizer, of Chester, Oliver, of Crawford, Burkholder, of Lancaster, and Wilcox, of Erie—all Republicans but Welsh. This committee organized by electing Prizer as chairman, and Mr. Martin, of Erie, as clerk.

Waddell (Republican) vs. Koons (Democrat), Luzerne county—Messrs. Ballantine and Ramsey, of Allegheny, Strock, Lamon, Porter, McCullough and Albright, of Philadelphia, Henry, of Cambria, and Wilcox, of Erie—all Republicans. Mr. Albright is chairman, and Collins, of Philadelphia, clerk.

Phillips (Republican) vs. Kissner (Democrat), Luzerne county—Messrs. Lamon, Albright and Titternary, of Philadelphia, Young and Ballantine, of Allegheny, McCreery, of Venango, Brown, of Erie, Prizer, of Chester, and Sloan, of Northampton—all Republicans but Stier. This committee chose Lamon, of Philadelphia, Chairman, and Buckley, of Philadelphia, clerk.

Williams (Republican) vs. Delacy (Democrat), Luzerne county—Messrs. Mitchell, of Tioga, (Chairman,) Henry, of Cambria, Vogdes, Ash and Smith, of Philadelphia, Ramsey and Semple, of Allegheny, and Latta, of Westmoreland—all Republicans but Latta.

The Governor elect is in town, and will quietly take possession of the Executive mansion. The arrangements for the inauguration are proceeding quietly, and if the weather is good, the display will be fine. All interest now centers on this show, and until it and the Senatorial election are over, nothing else will receive much attention.

SPECIAL.

Senate Committees.

Following are the standing committees of the Senate:

Constitutional Reform.—Messrs. Strang, White, Graham, Cutler, Delamater, Davis, (Berks,) McClure, Wallace, Dill.

Congressional Apportionment.—Messrs. Rutan, Graham, Finch, Wilson, Strang, Wallace, Davis, (Berks,) Dill, Playford, Alexander.

Federal Relations.—Messrs. Waddell, Heilman, Rutan, Albright, Nagle.

Finance.—Messrs. Graham, Rutan, Strang, Wallace, McClure.

Judiciary, (General).—Messrs. White, Waddell, Dill, Davis, Berks, Wallace.

Judiciary, (Local).—Messrs. Fitch, Cutler, Delamater, Petriken, Albright.

Estates and Escheats.—Messrs. Cutler, McKinley, Fitch, Petriken, Playford.

Divorces.—Messrs. Weakley, Heilman, Davis, (Philadelphia), Albright, Crawford.

Banks.—Messrs. Delamater, Graham, Alexander, McSherry, Nagle.

Education.—Messrs. Warfel, Lemon, White, Crawford, Chalfant.

Accounts.—Messrs. Lemon, Delamater, Weakley, Heilman, Chalfant.

Pensions and Gratuities.—Messrs. Warfel, Alexander, Maclay, Albright, McSherry.

Corporations.—Messrs. Humphreys, Weakley, McKinley, Nagle, Collins.

Mines and Mining.—Messrs. Albright, Maclay, Heilman, Humphries, Collins.

Public Buildings.—Messrs. Davis (Berks), Humphreys, Weakley, Lemon, Chalfant.

Railroads.—Messrs. Davis (Philadelphia), Warfel, Rutan, Randall, Dill.

Retrenchment and Reform.—Messrs. Cutler, Waddell, Alexander, Knight, McSherry.

Canals and Inland Navigation.—Messrs. Davis (Philadelphia), Strang, Humphreys, Randall, Fow ler.

Agriculture.—Messrs. Maclay, Heilman, Lemon, Knight, Crawford.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. White, Heilman, McKinley, McSherry, Playford.

Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Delamater, Humphreys, Maclay, Nagle, McClure, Randall.

Election Districts.—Messrs. Humphries, McKinley, Strang, McSherry, Rowland.

Library.—White, Warfel, Knight.

Vice and Immorality.—Messrs. Delamater, Graham, Alexander, McSherry, Petriken.

Public Buildings.—Messrs. Heilman, Lemon, Crawford.

New Counties and County Seats.—Messrs. McKinley, Strang, Davis (Philadelphia), Randall, Crawford.

An act for an additional Notary Public in Fayette county, authorizes one to be appointed for Uniontown, and a similar act for Allegheny county, provides for an additional one in Pittsburgh.

A further supplement to the act consolidating the wards of Pittsburgh for school purposes, consolidates the seventh ward of Allegheny with the old city for educational purposes, fixes the 1st of January for the expiration of the School Directors' terms in Oakland, and that elections for School Directors on the South Side shall hereafter be held on the first Tuesday of December in each year, and that wherever any districts are hereafter annexed to the city they shall be considered as consolidated with the city for educational purposes, and the first election of directors thereafter in such districts shall be held at the time of the first annual city election thereafter.

A supplement to the act incorporating the Safe Deposit and Trust Company of Westmoreland changes the name to the Penn Savings Bank, and reduces the shares from $100 to $50 each.

An act to incorporate the Indiana County Deposit Bank, names Jno. Ralston, Wm. Lytle, R. M. Gibson, D. R. M. McClunesney, S. F. Townsend, Wm. M. Stewart, A. M. Stewart, B. K. Jamison, S. Truby, Harry White, E. H. Wilson, D. Thomas, J. K. Thompson, C. Empfield, M. C. Getty, A. S. Nesbit, J. H. Kinter and Jno. A Stewart as corporators, and is the same bill as was introduced last year. It confers general banking powers, and gives the bank power to charge any rate of interest that may be agreed on.

A supplement to the act for the education of soldiers' orphans, introduced by Mr. McKinley, extends the time of pupilage from sixteen years of age to eighteen. All soldiers' orphans are now discharged at the age of sixteen.

A supplement to an act incorporating a company for erecting a bridge over the Youghiogheny at McKeesport, fixes the elevation of said bridge at *forty* feet above low water mark instead of *sixty*.

A supplement to the Allegheny county license law, read by Mr. Humphries, extends the provisions of that law to the borough of McKeesport and Mifflin township, those districts being now exempt from its operation.

Mr. McClure read a joint resolution in favor of three new amendments to the United States Constitution, limiting the Presidential term, fixing the term at six years, and making United States Senators elective by the people.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 16, 1873.

Both Houses adjourned to-day to Monday night at seven o'clock.

In the Senate, Mr. Waddell presented a petition contesting the election of Judge Roberts, of Montgomery. Monday night was fixed for joint session to draw the committee, and the House concurred.

The bill to authorize an additional Notary in Pittsburgh, was called up, the number increased to two, and passed. As there are now only eighty notaries in Pittsburgh, the House will probably increase the number to ten or twenty. Now is the chance for whoever wants to be a notary.

Mr. McKinley called up a bill, reported this morning from committee, to erect a bridge over the Allegheny at Oil City. When the last section was reached, Mr. McClure offered an amendment to compel the construction within six months after contract, and to compel contractors to give security. Pending the consideration of this, the bill was postponed for the present.

Mr. Graham had the bill to establish a water works in Sewickley called up and passed. The clause in the bill exempting the bonds authorized to be issued from taxation was amended by adding "except for State purposes."

The two Houses met in joint convention and counted the vote for Governor. The usual certificates were made out and signed.

The House sat this night until after midnight, drawing Contested Election committees. Four were drawn then, and one this morning, and a petition contesting Titterman's seat, Philadelphia, was presented, making six contests in all, beside the one for Judge. The committe in Titterman's case will be drawn on Monday.

Nothing else was done in the House, this and the counting of the Governor's vote keeping it in session till 2 P. M.

Among the bills introduced to-day in the Senate were the following:

An act relating to churches, congregations or religious societies, introduced by Mr. Graham, provides that the societies may elect the minister, elder and deacons as trustees, or the deacons alone, as they prefer.

Supplement to the act incorporating the Sloe and Leather Savings Bank of Pittsburgh gives power to the stockholders to increase the capital stock to $500,000, and to the Directors to change the name of the bank.

Mr. Culler's bill to establish an additional

Senate Committees.

Following are the standing committees of the Senate:

Constitutional Reform.—Messrs. Strang, White, Graham, Cutler, Delamater, Davis, (Berks,) McClure, Wallace, Dill.

Congressional Apportionment.—Messrs. Rutan, Graham, Finch, Wilson, Strang, Wallace, Davis, (Berks,) Dill, Playford, Alexander.

Federal Relations.—Messrs. Waddell, Heilman, Rutan, Albright, Nagle.

Finance.—Messrs. Graham, Rutan, Strang, Wallace, McClure.

Judiciary, (General).—Messrs. White, Waddell, Dill, Davis, Berks, Wallace.

Judiciary, (Local).—Messrs. Fitch, Cutler, Delamater, Petriken, Albright.

Estates and Escheats.—Messrs. Cutler, McKinley, Fitch, Petriken, Playford.

Divorces.—Messrs. Weakley, Heilman, Davis, (Philadelphia), Albright, Crawford.

Banks.—Messrs. Delamater, Graham, Alexander, McSherry, Nagle.

Education.—Messrs. Warfel, Lemon, White, Crawford, Chalfant.

Accounts.—Messrs. Lemon, Delamater, Weakley, Heilman, Chalfant.

Pensions and Gratuities.—Messrs. Warfel, Alexander, Maclay, Albright, McSherry.

Corporations.—Messrs. Humphreys, Weakley, McKinley, Nagle, Collins.

Mines and Mining.—Messrs. Albright, Maclay, Heilman, Humphries, Collins.

Public Buildings.—Messrs. Davis (Berks), Humphreys, Weakley, Lemon, Chalfant.

Railroads.—Messrs. Davis (Philadelphia), Warfel, Rutan, Randall, Dill.

Retrenchment and Reform.—Messrs. Cutler, Waddell, Alexander, Knight, McSherry.

Canals and Inland Navigation.—Messrs. Davis (Philadelphia), Strang, Humphreys, Randall, Fow ler.

Agriculture.—Messrs. Maclay, Heilman, Lemon, Knight, Crawford.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. White, Heilman, McKinley, McSherry, Playford.

Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Delamater, Humphreys, Maclay, Nagle, McClure, Randall.

Election Districts.—Messrs. Humphries, McKinley, Strang, McSherry, Rowland.

Library.—White, Warfel, Knight.

Vice and Immorality.—Messrs. Delamater, Graham, Alexander, McSherry, Petriken.

Public Buildings.—Messrs. Heilman, Lemon, Crawford.

New Counties and County Seats.—Messrs. McKinley, Strang, Davis (Philadelphia), Randall, Crawford.

Private Claims and Damages.—Messrs. Alexander, Warfel, Rowland, Playford, Collins.

Compare Bills.—Messrs. Waddell, Weakley, Rutan, Petriken.

House Committees.

Following are the standing committees of the House of Representatives, session of 1873:

Ways and Means.—Messrs. Mitchell, Myer, Daniels, Bates (Crawford), Bowman, Brown, Cross, Hancock, Young, Ballantine (Lebanon), Levering, Mylon, Vogdes, Wainright, Josephs, Morris, Noyes, Brockway, Conrad, Lawshe, Welsh.

Judiciary System (General).—Messrs. Mahon, Potter, Bates (Crawford), Brown, Bullard, Jones (Potter), Lane, McCreary, McCormick, Mitchell, Mylon, Newmyer, Ramsey, Waldon, Wolf, Bright, Darrah, Dupuy, Heiges, Kisner, Orvis, Reynolds, Williams.

Judiciary System (Local).—Messrs. Bullard, Newmyer, Allison, Bates (Crawford), Bowman, Brown, Dartt, Hancock, McCormick, Mitchell, Myer, Ramsey, Smith (Philadelphia), Wolf, Heiges, Kisner, Lawson, Orvis, Reynolds, Smith (Fayette).

Municipal Corporations.—Messrs. Albright, Lamon, McCullough (Philadelphia), Asb, Ballantine, Bullard, Burkholder, Burns, Newell, Porter, Prizer, Smith (Philadelphia), Strock, Titterman, Vogdes, Dailey, Darrah, De Lacy, Leedom, Mylin, Wallace, Wilcox, Eagen, Koons, Levering, Mahon, Mylin, Vogdes, Wainright, Josephs, Morris, Noyes, Brockway, Conrad, Lawshe, Welsh.

Military Affairs.—Messrs. Ballantine, Lane, Burkholder, Hancock, Henry, Kaufman, (Lebanon), McCreary, Vogdes, Wilcox, Baird, De Lacy, Jewett, King, Loucks.

Divorces.—Messrs. Smith (Philadelphia), McCormick, Ash, Bailey, Bowman, Jones, (Potter), McMillan, Mahon, Newell, Newmyer, Beach, Conrad, Dailey, Darrah, Greenawalt.

Banks.—Messrs. Henry, Wolf, Prizer, Ash, Daniels, Kaufman (Lebanon), McCormick, McMillan, Myer, Shortt, Wainwright, Beach, Greenawalt, Koons, Staples, Stier, Welsh.

Public Buildings.—Messrs. Black, Shuler, Beach.

Accounts.—Messrs. Shortt, Levering, Bullard, Burkholder, Oliver, Ramsey, Schminkey, Shuster, Tshudy, Baird, Conrad, Dry, Petriken, Staples.

Roads, Bridges and Ferries.—Messrs. Bowman, Wilcox, Brunges, Burkholder, Henry, McCreary, McCune, Nyce, Shortt, Young, Amerman, Bates, (Mifflin,) Beach, Morris.

Claims.—Messrs. Lane, Ramey, McKee, Prizer, Shuler,

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1873.

SENATOR CAMERON was on Tuesday re-elected to the Senate of the United States from this Commonwealth for the period of six years from the fourth of March next. Senator CONKLING was also re-elected from the State of New York, and Senator HOWE from Wisconsin; while Governor OGLESBY, of Illinois, was chosen as the successor of Senator TRUMBULL. Elections for Senator were also held by the Legislatures of Kansas and Georgia, the result not having reached us at this writing.

As THE trial of TWEED progresses, the probabilities of his conviction seem to become more and more certain. The testimony of GARVEY, the plasterer, who appears determined to make a clean breast of it, notwithstanding that he was himself an active party to the public plundering, is so direct and positive in its nature, and brings home the proofs of fraud with such straight and damaging force, that it would seem impossible for the defense, however ably or adroitly conducted, to make any headway against it. There are some suggestive lessons connected with this trial. Three years ago TWEED was practically at the head of the city government of New York. His ring was strong enough to defy public indignation, and there was no prospect of any change. Now the robber league is broken, and its members are expelled from office. Every man of their number is branded with an indelible stigma, and their leader is being tried for his crimes in the very building out of whose construction himself and his confederates made some millions of stolen dollars. In the long run there is no such thing as successful villainy.

A NOVEL question has just come before the Postmaster General for decision, which involves a principle of some importance to newspapers, editors and publishers. It appears that the office, types and presses of the Bellefonte *Republican*, a weekly newspaper published in this State, were sold by the sheriff recently, the purchasers continuing the publication of the paper. The original proprietor contends that the good will and name of the paper were not sold. He therefore continues the publication of the same sheet in an adjacent office in the same town; and the point at issue is as to which of the two parties the exchanges and other mail matter shall be delivered. Some time ago, in the case of a dissolved partnership, where contention arose as to who was the proper person to receive communications addressed to the former firm, the postmaster being forbidden by one party to deliver to the other, the Department instructed the postmaster to require them to appoint a receiver, and to retain all mail matter in his own custody until such appointment should have been made. The question now under consideration is in some respects of a similar character, and it is understood that the Postmaster General intends, in deciding it, to give a general decision relating to all such cases.

WHOSO spares the evil doer hurts the upright and innocent; and the necessity is sternly upon the country of vigorously cleansing the public service of those who have proved corrupt, recreant, and unfaithful to their trusts. Especially is it requisite that Congress should exert itself to revive the confidence and respect which membership in that body once commanded; and it is satisfactory to learn that there is a growing determination on its part to see that justice is hereafter meted without fear or favor to such as have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. It is said that the report of the Special Investigating Committee in the case of Senator CLAYTON, of Arkansas, which is to be made to the Senate in a few days, will place that Senator in a very unenviable light. The committee will offer no resolution in the premises, but will leave the Senate to take whatever course it may see fit in the light of the evidence. A man should be condemned without cause, but neither should any offender be shielded from punishment. If the charges against Senator CLAYTON have substantial foundation, let the Senate not hesitate a moment to pronounce against him the verdict he will have invoked. And so with all.

THE Pennsylvania Central continues to reach out its arms in all directions. Coincident with the announcement, which we find in a Boston paper, that Colonel SCOTT contemplates a speedy extension of that road to Boston, we learn from Washington that he intends to establish a new line of steamers between San Francisco, New Zealand and intermediate ports; the proposition being to construct a large compliment of American-built iron screw propellers, and run them in connection with the Pacific railroads. The managers belonging to the established English lines now plying between New York and Europe. A number of heavy capitalists, principally railroad men, are said to be interested with him in the enterprise, which it is proposed to put into active operation without delay. The days are mentioned as a probable absorption by the Pennsylvania Central of a leading Indianapolis line to the West, connecting with the railway systems of Missouri and Iowa, and by means of the Union and Central roads, forming a direct line across the Continent. The intimate and harmonious relationship existing between these various apparently disconnected movements begins now to be seen.

WESTERN FARMERS AND THE RAILROAD KINGS.

No abatement is apparent in the indignant feelings with which the farmers of the great West regard the oppression of the railway monopolists. We cite the mildest terms used by the complainants to designate the thing and the persons, and we now refer to the subject for the mere purpose of making known the progress of what seems to be an interesting, if not an important movement. Some weeks ago, on the authority of a Western paper, we gave a brief statement of the farmers' grievances—a statement somewhat softened in tone in the repetition, and yet sufficiently strong to suggest the probability of future action for the removal or mitigation of evils so keenly felt. It is, therefore, no surprise to learn that the farmers of Illinois have lately held a Convention at Bloomington, in that State, for the purpose of conferring together, and if possible, devising a remedy for a condition of things which appears to them simply intolerable. In the opening address the speaker declared in the name of the farmers present that body once commanded

RAILROAD DISASTER.

Accident on the Allegheny Valley Road.

J. M. RITER, OF PITTSBURGH, KILLED.

Joseph Ross, Esq., Prothonotary of Allegheny County, Seriously and a Number of Others More or Less Severely Hurt.

Full Particulars of the Mishap.

The fact that a fatal accident had occurred on the Allegheny Valley Railroad formed the principal topic of conversation on the streets Friday afternoon, especially as it became known that a passenger, and probably more, of our fellow-citizens were on board the train. The following telegram from our special correspondent gives a full and reliable account of the sad affair:

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

SCRUBGRASS, PA., January 17, 1873.

The Night Express on the Allegheny Valley Road, leaving Pittsburgh at 9:10 P. M., met with an accident this afternoon at a place called St. 1000's, about four miles above here, which, but for the fact that there was high water in the Allegheny river, must have been attended with serious loss of life. The train was made up with engine 25, a baggage car next, the ladies, then a smoking car, and last the sleeping car, "Titusville," a slight reversal of the usual order, as the latter car usually precedes the sleeper. It left Pittsburgh last night on time, and nothing unusual happened until a little after two this morning, when a landslide was encountered at Hillvale, a few miles north of Brady's Bend. Two hours delay was caused by the train on the line, when precedence was further hindrance until just below this station, when another and more serious slide was met. Several tons of frozen gravel having fallen from the hillside and covered the track for some distance. In fact, it was necessary to blast it before removal was possible. This caused a further delay of six hours. To be exact, the train did not leave this station until 12:05 noon, although it should have left at 4:15 A. M. After leaving here, if the statements of passengers are to be believed, the speed was great y increased, and when near St. George's the rear truck of the last smoking car struck a broken rail and left the track, sliding or running toward the hillside. This threw the sleeper off, and, the coupling breaking, the latter turned a complete somersault in the opposite direction out of the track, down a wood gulch, feet high, and pitched out into the river, landing top up, a one twenty feet from shore, in water deep enough to float the car, had it not been fortunate that the river was high, and it is equally fortunate that in rolling down the bank the top of the sleeper struck in a soft place, and the hole at the rear end being about six feet long and the width of the car, while that at the forward end, although smaller, was large enough for the occupants at that end of the car to escape through.

PAYS OF THE PASSENGERS.

There were seven persons in the car when it went down and all were thrown in various directions, more or less cut with sharp glass and otherwise injured, and then submerged in water at a temperature a little above zero. A scramble to get out then ensued, and was effected in less time than in less than two minutes all, with the exception of the man killed, were sitting or standing on the roof of the car. A new danger confronted them—that of being washed down the stream; but being good swimmers, they all struck for the bank with ropes, and across an improvised bridge of brush and railroad ties they were gotten safely to shore.

DEAD PASSENGER FOUND.

Through one of the ventilators a body was then noticed floating around in the top of the car, and the water is receiving and it was soon found and it was drawn out. It proved to be the body of Mr. J. M. Riter, of Pittsburgh, who, after leaving Parker's, the scene of the accident, where a large amount of business is at Nos. 55 and 56, Water street, Pittsburgh.

THE INJURED.

In a few moments the smoking car was put on the track, the injured placed on board and the train passed on to the point of the accident, at which the injured was taken, as follows: Joseph Ross, Prothonotary of Allegheny county, residence Pittsburgh, seriously injured internally; George W. Danier, firm of Danier & Sons, Pittsburgh, slightly cut on the hand, arm and head; Frederick James's, Rich, Oil City, three ribs broken and otherwise injured; Lieutenant William Barrett, of Franklin, contusion wound of the head, went home; Henry Fisher, the well known oil dealer and producer of Oil City, cut on hands; J. R. Hepburn, Assistant Superintendent of the Oil Creek and Allegheny River Railroad, contusion wound of the head, went home; C. J. Cornell, freight conductor of the Allegheny Valley Railroad, severely injured on left side in the head, shoulder and back; the car—it has not been ascertained yet, whether by the concussion or the skill of John Price, conductor of sleeping car, cut on the head and right hand, latter badly, and wrist sprained; A. A. King, a brakeman of the train, ankle badly sprained; Edward Goodwell, (white) porter of sleeper, badly injured.

With the exception of those noted as going elsewhere, the injured went to Oil City, where they were properly cared for. They were all over three hours in their wet clothes, but it is proper here to state that every attention on the company's employees possible to give under the circumstances—a train being made up and dispatched to the scene of the wreck in several physicians aboard within seventeen minutes after notification of the accident was received, and reaching the wreck in one hour. Arriving at Oil City, they were taken to the hotels, and are now attended by all the medical talent procurable.

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

In order that both sides may have a fair showing, your correspondent has secured statements from several on board as to the cause of the accident, and will first give the official report of the conductor of the train, Mr. Rich, which is as follows:

To J. J. Lawren e, Superintendent:

We left Scrubgrass at 12:03 and reached a point called St. George's well, about four miles north of Scrubgrass, consuming from thirteen to fifteen minutes time. I had struck on the second coach west off the track and slewed to the hill, uncoupling from the sleeper, which took the river side, turning a complete somersault and stopping in the river, fifteen feet from shore, in as many feet of water; I was in the baggage car, and when I got back found all the passengers, with the exception of one, on the top of the sleeper. We experienced great trouble in getting them to shore, owing to the absence of any kind of lumber. The ice had gorged between the sleeper and the shore, and we got some branches of trees and ties, and laid on the ice. I had to secure the car by means of bell ropes to prevent it being carried along by the ice. After getting the passengers to shore, we found the body of James Riter, a broker, master of Pittsburgh, floating near a ventilator. Procured an ax and cut a hole in the top of and got him out. Can't say whether he was killed or drowned. The body was taken to Scrubgrass by Train No. 13. Dr. Sampson, of Emlenton, and Dr. J. D. Baldwin, of Oil City, were passengers and did good service. Mr. Danier and Mr. Garrett stopped at Parkins, which was their destination. The rest all came to Oil City and are under the attention done for their comfort. [Signed] M. M. RICH, Conductor.

Mr. Rich could not be found at sleeping car, but is now connected with the road, states that he has had three years' experience on the Pennsylvania Central Divis ion, where a rate of speed is customary, and is satisfied that the train was running from twenty to twenty-five miles per hour. He has been running on the Valley Road since done; is a good judge of the speed of trains, and says that they were making more than the running time. Edward Goodwell, porter of the sleeper, thinks they were running at even a greater rate of speed than usual. Messrs. Dozier and Garrett, passengers, say that the train was running very fast, without attempting to state the speed.

A great deal of allowance must be made for these statements, as we apprehend a number were fast, the speed of first-class trains on this road rarely exceeds twenty miles per hour, which is about the rate the conductor gives in his report. The rail was undoubtedly broken and displaced by the engine and forward cars, as a careful inspection of the track, made just previous to the passage of the train, showed it to be all right. The road bed is also in good order at the present.

SMOKER ESCAPES.

There were several narrow escapes from drowning, notably in the case of superintendent Hepburn, whose foot was caught in the wreck, holding him under water. He was fortunately seen by Conductor Rich, the freight train conductor, who forcibly drew him out. Mr. Rich, of Oil City, found an open window, through which he crawled and dragged Mr. Ross. The brakeman, escaped out of the hole in the forward end of the car.

CONDITION OF THE INJURED.

The injured are doing very well to night, the most serious case being that of Mr. Ross. It is to be regretted that the doctors refuse to make any statement as to his condition, justifying the belief that he is very seriously injured.

The road is open and trains are running in both directions as usual.

ANOTHER DISPATCH.

The following telegram to Col. J. J. Lawrence, General Superintendent A. V. R. R., was received in this city last evening:

MR. J. J. LAWRENCE: The injured persons brought to Oil City are Jas. Ross, Prothonotary of Allegheny county, seriously injured; Joseph Riter, of Pro'eonm House; Chas. Cornell, conductor on Allegheny Valley Railroad, badly hurt, Taylor House; J. Rich, Oil City, seriously hurt, taken home. Besides these Kline, brakeman, was seriously hurt and an old brakeman slightly injured; Dozier, Davis and Seyes are in attendance, and also Drs. Baldwin, of Oil City, and Simpson, of Emlenton, who were on the train. They have done all that could under the emergency. Carriages were had in readiness at the depot, and without delay the injured were conveyed to their homes, or the nearest hotels. They are receiving every attention that lies in the power of medical skill. [Signed, P. A. RENDE.

Mr. Riter's remains arrived in this city at nine o'clock last evening and were taken charge of by Mr. Brown, the undertaker, who removed them to the late residence of the deceased, No. 173 Irwin avenue, Allegheny.

Mr. Riter was one of our most respected citizens, extensively engaged in the manufacture of oil tanks. He was the architect of his own fortunes, and a man greatly beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.

A late telegram from Oil City says that Prothonotary Ross is not seriously injured, but bruised about the head and hurt internally. Hon. Wash J. A. Ross, left for Oil City last evening.

MONEY AND MATRIMONY.

Marrying for Cash—Sharp Operations—An Unsuccessful Scheme.

Some time since a man named Jesse S. Porter came to this city, with his wife and family, and put up at one of our principal hotels. He had formerly been engaged on the canal, on the Ohio river, in this town, who died, leaving his widow in comfortable circumstances. Porter, who is a man of good address and fine personal appearance, made love to the widow, and was not long in ascertaining that his attentions were quite agreeable to her. The engagement and marriage followed in due time, and early last winter the family moved to this city, as stated. They remained here only about three months, during which time he spent, or got rid of $6,700 of his wife's money. He raised frequently of small sums to borrow, and when he left he owed here. His wife, who is a most estimable woman, became deeply attached to him, and was quite willing to make almost any sacrifice for his sake. She found it impossible, however, to supply his demands for money, and he accordingly proceeded to withhold further advances. He then left the city and secreted himself for a few days. He wrote to her regularly for a while, at one time quite a sum enclosed without her hearing from him. She came to the city a few days ago, and at his home where she had boarded last winter, and informed the proprietor that she had received a letter from Mr. Porter, written at Baltimore, which was the only one he had sent her for five or six weeks. She had then come to the conclusion that he had either abandoned her or was about doing so, and was arranging to get on in the world without him.

The following, from the Baltimore *American* of Wednesday last, throws some light on the question:

Shortly after six o'clock last evening officer Hoffman, of the Southern Station, while passing along Sharp street was accosted by Narrow Money, but better known as Lizzie Johnson, who informed him that she had been robbed of four thousand dollars in greenbacks. She furnished the officer with a description of the party whom she supposed of having committed the robbery, and in twenty minutes after receiving the information the officer had captured his man and the money. He was taken to the Southern Station House, and gave as his name Jesse E. Porter, of Pittsburgh, and steadily affirmed that he did not steal the money, but that he had placed it in his pocket for safe keeping. Information of the arrest of Porter was conveyed to complainant, and upon her visiting the Station House, she stated to Captain Delanty that she had known the accused for some time, and that under the promise of marriage she had been induced to dispose of two houses on Josephine street for $5,000 the same stolen by Porter. The accused attempted to show that he did not steal the money, and handed the amount above named, less $50, over to Captain Delanty, and when Mrs. Morgan stated that she had lost $4,000, he drew from his vest pocket a fifty dollar note and handed it to her, with the remark that it was not her money, but that he would give it to her to make up the amount stated to have been taken from her. Mrs. Morgan, after conversing a short time with the accused, was disposed not to prosecute him, but Captain Delanty deeming the matter one requiring further investigation, ordered Porter to be locked up for the night. The accused is a fine looking young man, was dressed very neatly, and protested in the most emphatic manner that he did not steal the money, but that he removed it from under a bed for fear that it might be stolen or lost in some other manner. He will have a hearing before Justice Nugent this morning.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 22, 1873.

The subject of our usury laws is attracting the attention of business men throughout the country, and has assumed such prominence in the messages of the Governors of several of the States that some legislative action may be looked for. We understand that a bill has been drafted by an eminent lawyer of this city which will be submitted to the Legislature at Harrisburg in a short time. The usury laws now work to the positive disadvantage of those for whom they were chiefly intended—to benefit. No class of people in this State cling with such tenacity to the fancied protection of the 6 per cent. restriction for the use of money as the farmers desiring money on bond and mortgage, and other borrowers in the rural districts. As a matter of fact few mortgages are obtained at simple interest or at anything like it. For a bonus or commission, in almost every case, covers far more than an extra one per cent. would amount to for a term during which the mortgage is to run. In reality a mortgage for five years placed at nine per cent., the extra interest being discounted, pays the purchaser about ten and a quarter per cent. per annum.

A law which should allow money to be loaned in this State upon any form of security at a rate not exceeding ten per cent., and for loans at higher rates, should only refuse the legal process to collect the interest, thus leaving all loans at any rate perfectly legitimate, but decline to compell borrowers to pay over the amount promised where the rate named is more than ten per cent., would be a great boon to every class of borrowers. It would attract no such capital into the State that, we presume well secured loans could be placed at six or seven per cent.

The Comptroller of the Currency, in speaking of this subject, says: "The rates of interest fixed by State laws are not governed by any sound, economical or business principles. It would be difficult to give a reason why the rate of interest should be 10 per cent. in Washington, 6 per cent. in Pennsylvania and 12 per cent. across the Potomac in Virginia."

He points out the fact that there are no usury laws in Great Britain or in the other commercial countries of Europe, and that the State of Massachusetts has abolished such laws, and also that the rates of dividends earned by the banks of that State for the four years since the passage of the act have been less than in the States where the rate of interest is fixed at 6 per cent. Governor Dix, of New York, in his inaugural message, takes strong grounds in favor of the repeal of the usury laws of that State, and Governor Hartranft, in his greeting to the people of this State, says:

"Capital is the water for the wheel and should be abundant, and the rate of interest, the key for active and wholesome enterprise, and whatever legislation will best serve this end should receive general support. The rate will always seek the best market, the security being the same, and for that reason it now gravitates to neighboring States where the legal rates are higher than our own. If we cannot remove the restriction and make money as free as any other commodity, at least let us make the same rate allowed by other States, and thereby retain it within our own borders."

A bill has also been introduced into the House repealing the usury laws, in accordance with the suggestions of the Comptroller, legalizing any rate of interest that may be contracted for, making the rate, when not specified, the same as now fixed by law of the State where the bank is, and if no such law exists, then the rate to be 7 per cent. per annum.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by George H. Stuart, Jr., Co., broker and dealer in stocks, bonds and gold corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street:

January 22, 1873.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾
Quotes	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾	113¾
Western Union Tel.	83¼	83¼	83¼	83¼	83¼	83¼
Quotes						
Pacific Mail	71¾	71¾	71¾	73¼	72½	72¼
Adams Express						
Wells, Fargo Express					84½	
Merchants' Express					50	
United States Express					104½	
New York Central	104¼	104	103¾	103¾	103¾	103¾
Erie	63	63	63	62¾	63	63
Michigan Central				93½	93½	93½
Michigan Southern	93½	93½	94½	93½	93½	93½
Illinois Central				120		
Cleveland and Pittsb'h				93½		
Chicago and Northwest				88½		
Do preferred				88½		
Rock Island	112	112½	112½	112½	112½	112½
St. Paul	40½	40½	40½	40½	40½	40½
Do preferred	75½	75½	75½	75½	75½	75½
Fort Wayne				98½		
Ohio and Mississippi	47	47½	47½	47¾	47¾	47¾
Union Pacific	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾
Chicago and Alton				90½		
Do preferred				98½		
Boston, Hartford & Erie				8¾		8¾
Quotes				8¾	8¾	
New Jersey Central				93½	93½	93½
C. C. & I. C.				98½		
Hannibal & St. Jos.				30¾		
Atlantic Mail				98½		
Iron Mountain				98½		

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Even.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	115¼	115¼	115¼
U. S. Bonds of 1862	114¾	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	114¼	114¼	114¼
U. S. Bonds of 1865	115	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865, new	115¼	115¼	115¼
U. S. Bonds of 1867	115¾	115¾	115¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	115¾	115¾	115¾
10-40s	111¾	111¾	111¾
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾
Currency 6s			114

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	113¾
United States 6s of 1881	115¾
United States 5-20s of 1862	114¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	114¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	114¾
United States 5-20s of 1865, January and July, 1865	115¼
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	115¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	115¾
Currency Pacifics	114¾

—The Postmaster-General is at last forced by the public outcry to treat with serious consideration the call for reformation of the ruling that a letter not fully paid must be doubly paid at its destination. Several bills against it were presented in the House during this session, and the Postoffice Committee on the subject reported a bill which is adopted as to amend the postal code, in order to reverse the ruling Mr. Creswell had made. But Mr. Creswell promised to allow reference of the question to the Attorney General, and the committee thereupon promptly reported a resolution for printing and recommittal. The Postmaster General will now submit the law to the Attorney General for his opinion, which will be almost certainly against collecting the double postage, and the mortification of a supplementary act of Congress will be avoided by that course. The committee will hold their resolution in abeyance, and if the Attorney General is not consulted within a reasonable time, they will put it on its passage. The Postmaster General told a member of Congress recently that he intended to reverse his ruling, but has since decided that its reference to the Attorney General would be the easiest "let down" for the credit of his own judgment.

Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotation of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn's Central	87¾	Phila. and Erie	27½
Reading	93¾	Lehigh Navigation	33¾
United Co.'s of N.J.	120½	Pittsburgh fs	72
Oil Creek & A. V. R.	55¾	A. V. R.R 7-30s	91
Lehigh Valley R. R.	59½	Central Transp'n	47

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 22, 1873.

REMARKS.—The oil market opened in a shade firmer both here and at various points in the oil regions. Holders generally are asking an advance of 10 to 15c per barrel. Spot here is held at 55@55½c. The bottom has evidently been reached. For prices at the leading points see our dispatches.

REFINED.

The market has improved, from the fact that we have sales of 2,000 bbls reported as follows:

1,000 bbls summer, delivered.....16½c
1,000 bbls spot.....16½c
500 bbls spot.....16½c

[By Western Union Line.]

TITUSVILLE, January 22.—The *Herald* says: The market opened firm but closed dull and weak at 1 cent lower than yesterday. Buyers on upper Road there was considerable inquiry, and market steady and the close, prices ranging from $2 10 to 2 15, as follows:

1,000 bbls upper creek spot.....$2 10
1,000 bbls upper creek, spot.....2 12½
1,000 bbls upper creek, spot.....2 15
2,000 bbls upper creek, spot.....2 12½
1,000 bbls upper creek, all fall, 10c ₰ bbl, at 3 00
1,000 bbls lower creek, 43 gallons spot.....2 15
500 bbls Oil City, spot.....2 20½
1,000 bbls Oil City, spot.....2 20½
1,000 bbls Oil City, spot.....2 25½

PARKERSBURG, January 24, closing list.—The market was firmer with a little better demand; reduced price held and 21½c asked for spot delivery; sales yesterday of 6,000 bbls for February delivery at 21½c. Crude in bulk held at 9c, without business. Cases quiet at 37c. Philadelphia dull and nominal; prices for refined 22c; no sales reported.

PHILADELPHIA, January 22.—Market quiet and steady. Crude, 9c. Refined, 22c; crude in shipping order 14¾c; cases 26c.

RICHMOND, January 22.—Market firmer with little inquiry at 21½c.

PETROLEUM CENTER, January 22.—Market dull and nothing doing at 9c 10c.

TITUSVILLE, January 22.—Market dull; spot $2 10@2 15; very little doing.

OIL CITY, January 22.—Market quiet and firm at $2 10@2 15; lower reed $2 10; upper road $2 15@2 20.

[By Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph Line.]

OIL CITY, January 22.—Market opened firmer at $2 00@2 05. Sellers are withdrawing from the market.

TITUSVILLE, January 22.—Market firm at $2 05.

TITUSVILLE, January 23.—Market very quiet. We quote: $2 02@2 10.

PARKERS, January 22.—Market firm; $2 freely bid; no sales.

PHILADELPHIA, January 22.—Market dull; refined 22c; crude, in bulk, 9c; in bbls 15c.

NEW YORK, January 22.—Crude 8¾c; refined 21½c.

St. Louis Market.

ST. LOUIS, January 22.—Cotton—Dull, but unchanged. Flour—Demand good at full prices; superfine $5 25@5 75; extra $6 00@6 50; family $7 00@7 50; choice to fancy $8 00@9 00. Wheat—Spring $1 12; No. 2 red winter $2. Corn demand fair and prices advanced; No. 2 mixed 32@33c, east track. Oats—Demand light, but holders firm; No. 2, 30c, east track; 30½c, elevator. Rye firm; No 2, 75c. Whisky quiet at 90c. Mess pork firmer at $12 25@12 50. Sweet pickled hams quiet at 9½@9½c. Dry salt meats firm; shoulders 4c; clear rib sides 6c; clear sides 6¾c. Bacon firm; sides 8c. Lard quiet; good 7½c; prime kettle rendered 7½c. Hogs higher at $3 60@4 10; mostly at $3 80@4 00. Cattle steady at $3@6 for fair to extra.

Louisville Market.

LOUISVILLE, January 22.—Tobacco very firm; sales at 8½c. Cotton quiet and steady; low middling 18½c. Flour still and demand good at previous prices. Grain firm but unchanged. Provisions quiet and steady. Mess pork $18. Bacon—Shoulders 5¼c; clear sides 6¾c; sugar cured hams 12½@13c. Bulk meats—Shoulders 4¾@4¾c; clear rib sides 6¼c; clear sides 6½c. Lard—8@8¼ @9¾c for choice leaf. Whiskey steady at 88½c.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, January 22.—Flour steady, with a moderate demand. Wheat dull and prices have declined; No 2 white Wabash $1 83; extra white Michigan for 00; amber Michigan $1 84; No 1 red $1 77; No 2 do $1 69. Corn—Demand fair and market firm; high mixed, 37@37½c; low mixed, 35@35½c; yellow 37½c. Oats steady, with a moderate demand; No 2 32½c. Dressed hogs $4 85@5 00. Clover seed dull, but unchanged.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 22, 1873.

REMARKS.—We have nothing of special interest to furnish the reader with regard to the state of the market, which rule, about the same as at last report. Stores are almost bare of country and find it extremely difficult to fill orders. When flour goes above ten dollars per barrel people fall back on corn meal, but just now even that deruler resort will not avail, as it is also reported scarce. However, bacon, groceries, apples, &c., are plentiful and cheap, so that no fear of a famine need be entertained. Fresh eggs are very scarce and sold up to 38c per dozen. Butter is in fair supply at unchanged prices.

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce received for the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.	Total.
Flour, bushels	7,223	7,126	14,349
Apples, barrels	1,343	1,802	3,145
Cheese, boxes	852	627	1,477
Corn, sacks	3,735	4,729	8,464
Wheat, sacks	1,969	3,113	5,082
Barley, sacks	1,555	6,649	8,204
Rye, sacks	231	437	668
Oats, sacks	5,746	4,988	10,733
Butter, sacks	280	427	707
Bran, pounds	24,831	9,549	34,080
Bran, tons	525	740	1,265

Below we give the wholesale rates of the market unless otherwise noted:

ASHES.—Pearls 11c@11¼c; pots 10c; soda ash 4¾@5c; refined 6@6½c; bright crude 4¾@5c; arsenic 3¾@4c.

APPLE BUTTER.—Sales at 50@55c per gallon.

ALES.—Sales of Pittsburgh grands at the following figures: X, $9 ₰ bbl; XX, $10; India Ale, $11; Porter $10 ₰ bbl.

APPLES.—Receipts lighter, being only 122 barrels. Choice cooking held at $2 50@2 75 ₰ bbl; fair $2 00@2 25.

BUTTER.—Choice roll 22@23c ₰ lb; prime 17@20c; common 9@10c.

BEANS.—Sales at $2 50@2 75 as to quality; common $2 00.

BROOM CORN.—Prices nominally 4½@5c ₰ lb, quality and condition.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—As before stated new cured meats have put in an appearance and are being disposed of at reasonable figures and meet ready sale. We quote as follows: Sugar cured hams 13½c; sugar cured shoulders 12c; plain shoulders 6c; ribs sides 8½c; clear rib sides 9½c; clear sides 9c; breakfast bacon 10½@11c; dried beef 18c; mess pork $14 50; ham sausage 10c; leaf lard, in tierces, 9c; kettle, half bbls 9½c; pails 10c; in pails, in half bbls, $4 75; in kegs $2 40. Receipts bacon, pieces, 2,265; tierces 65.

COUNTRY MEATS.—Hams 8c; clear sides 6½c; shoulders 5½c. Lard 7@7½c per lb.

CEMENT.—Selling at $4 25@4 50 per bbl; Beeson's hydraulic cement $6 00@2 25; Louisville $2 00@2 75; Hoosier $4 00@4 25.

CHEESE.—New York Goshen 16½@17c ₰ lb; Ohio Goshen 15½@16c; Dairy 13½@14c; Ohio Factory, young, 12½, 14c; selling lots 14½@15c; inferior grades nominal in price.

CIDER.—Sales at $5@7 per bbl. Market slow.

CLOVER SEED.—Scarce at $4 50@5 00 ₰ bbl; cultivated and common can be had at 4½@4¾ ₰ bbl.

CARBON OIL.—We quote: Standard brands, round ots, at 16½@17c, with the usual advance from store.

CONCENTRATED LYE.—The demand continues fair and sales are at $8 ₰ case.

DRIED FRUITS.—Sales peaches, halves, 7½@8½c; apples, strictly choice, 5½@7c; fair, 4@4½c.

DESICCATED VEGETABLES.—Sarsetti and Carey's $1 4@1 8 ₰ bbl; cultivated and common can be had at 4½@4¾ ₰ bbl.

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EGGS.—The market is bare of fresh eggs, which would bring 38@38c ₰ dozen; pickled 24@26c.

FLOUR.—Receipts 1,842 barrels. Stocks light and prices unchanged. We quote as follows: Store—Penn Mills, barrels $9 25; Rising Sun, $9 25; Minnehaha, $9 25; Island No. 1, best $7 50; Mills—National, white wheat, $10 00 ₰ bbl; Pan Handle, southern amber, $9 50; Morning Glory, red amber, 59.

GROCERIES.—Trade is only moderate, save in the article of coffee, which is active, owing to the recent fall in gold brights. We quote as follows:

Sugar—Kilgore's relined 8¾c; Knight's extra C 10¾c; H. K. & Co.'s yellow C 10c; Knight's H & E. extra C, 11¼c; Pittsburgh, yellow C, 10½; Calvert's extra C 11c; Calvert's extra B 12½ c; Calvert's A 12¾c; crushed 13¼c; powdered 12½c; granulated 12¼c; cut loaf 14c; standard A, 11¾; New Orleans fluffle.

Coffee.—Fair 20@20½c; good 21¼@22½c; prime 22 @23½c; choice 24@25c; fancy 26@26½c; Phoenix 20c; white drips $1 30.

Rice.—Carolina 9¼@9½c; Rangoon 7¼@7¾c.

New Orleans Molasses—73@75c ₰ gallon.

Pancake Syrups—75c.

GRAIN.—Receipts at the Grain Elevator, computed by bushels, were as follows:

Wheat, bushels	1,591	Corn, bushels	375
Oats, bushels	4,090	Barley, bushels	1,272

Receipts of grain in sacks for the past twenty-four hours were as follows:

Wheat, sacks	230	Barley, sacks	964
Corn, sacks	1,442	Rye, sacks	231

Prices are very firm, though not quotably higher. We quote as follows: Red winter wheat $1 75@1 80, white do $1 80@1 85; amber do $1 85@1 90; No. 2 do $1 65; elevator 65c; car, on track, 60c. Barley 80c@$1 00. Rye 90@95c. Corn 45c.

HAY.—Market dull at $26@30 per ton for baled, on track.

HONEY.—Sales in a small way at 20@23c ₰ lb.

HOMINY.—Demand fair at $4 25@4 50 ₰ bbl.

HOPS.—Are now selling in this market at 55 @60c ₰ lb and scarce; little or not grown.

LIME.—Cleveland white $2 ₰ bbl; eastern $1 25.

LARD OIL.—No. 1 winter, 70@75c ₰ gallon.

MILL FEED.—Sales bran at $1 15@1 20 ₰ cwt.; middlings $1 35@1 45, as to quality; corn meal $1 30 @1 35.

MINCE MEAT.—Choice brands 12c ₰ lb.

ONIONS.—We are reporting sales of yellow $4 00@5 00; reds $3@3 50. Market active and stocks light.

POTATOES.—Sales in bulk at 80c; sacks 85@90c.

POULTRY.—Dressed turkeys, 15@16c; dressed chickens 12@14c; dressed geese 5@6c; dressed ducks 10@12c.

RAGS.—Held at 3¾@3¾c ₰ lb.

SALT.—Sales extra No 1 at $1 65 per bbl; No 2 $1 55.

SAPOLIO.—Sales at $6 00 in case of 6 doz.

SEEDS.—Clover $5 00@5 25; flaxseed $1 90@1 95; timothy seed $3 00@3 50.

TALLOW.—Sales at 8@8¼c ₰ lb.

WHISKY.—High wines 92@93c ₰ gal.

WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

January 15.—The market continues moderately active, with a fair demand still at 50@55c for fleece, and pulled. In foreign nothing of any consequence has been done, the trade being chiefly confined to domestic. There is little or no speculative feeling exhibited, the sales being all made to manufacturers direct. The receipts of wool from California at $1 | 121 bags extra and super pulled, 52@55c; 20 bales super do, 61c; 5,000 lbs tub wash, 70c; 2,000 lbs washed medium, 66c; 6,000 lbs unwashed medium, 40@42c; 10,000 lbs unwashed western combing, 5 bales English noils, 10,000 lbs Mediterranean, 600 bags Texas, 180 bales spring Texas, 100 bags combing, 100 bales Cape, 100 bales, 21,000 lbs domestic fleece, 3,000 lbs Western do, 20,000 lbs Ohio and Michigan do, 4,000 lbs unwashed fleece, 2,000 lbs unwashed pulled, 9,000 lbs unwashed Texas, 2

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1873.

THE death of Baron LYTTON, which took place on Saturday, makes another gap in the rapidly lessening ranks of famous contemporary English authors. He was a versatile and prolific, as well as a vigorous writer, and some of his later works possess a fine flavor of originality. Most of his books are familiar as household words, and have been translated into nearly all the modern languages. He did not achieve any particular distinction as a statesman, but he took great interest in all matters pertaining to art, literature, and the diffusion of education and intelligence among the masses of the people. He is succeeded in his title and estates by an only son whose poems, published under the *nom de plume* of "Owen Meredith," show that he inherits no small share of his father's genius.

THE character, wealth, resources and management of the financial concerns of the good old Keystone State, shown in the Governor's recent message to the Legislature, are made the occasion of numerous complimentary references by various leading journals of the country; all of which is quite relishable to our local pride, and some of which is the more gratifying on account of the fact that the praise in question come from sources that, but a few short months ago, brimmed over with all sorts of accusations against the honor and good name of the Commonwealth. "Nothing succeeds like success;" and it is to be hoped that these spontaneous outside tributes to the sturdy intelligence, enterprise and probity of our people, may have the effect of causing some of our domestic malcontents to cease their dismal croaking and spiteful clamor.

A RESOLUTION, of whose adoption there is every prospect, has been introduced in the Illinois Legislature requesting the Governor of that State to call a convention of delegates from the fifteen States most interested by contiguity, to assemble at Washington on the tenth of next month for the purpose of urging upon Congress the necessity, expediency and propriety of making an appropriation of an amount sufficient to improve and make navigable at all seasons, when not obstructed by ice, the Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and Illinois rivers. Pennsylvania is one of the States that are deeply and directly interested in this subject, and it is to be hoped the movement inaugurated by the Illinois Legislature may be heartily seconded by this Commonwealth. It is the most comprehensive step toward the consummation of that great object which has taken place for many years.

WHILE we hold no one to be worthy of a vote who gives it to the temptation of a bribe, and believe that no man who owes his position to bribery should be allowed to retain it an instant after his crime has been clearly proved, we protest against the injustice of condemning any one on mere suspicion, or without giving him an opportunity of being heard in his own defense. If—which it seems likely to do—the investigation in the case of Senator CAMERON shall convince the Senate that he procured his election by the exercise of the corrupt practices alleged, let it make an example of him; and if it shall be shown that any other Senator from any other State is tainted in a similar manner, let him suffer a like punishment, also. But the attempt to manipulate public opinion against any one who is presumptively innocent, is as great a wrong as that of trying to screen offenders from justice. Something of this sort, however, has for some time been going on in a portion of the public press with regard to a certain Senator-elect from one of the Southern States, and it is neither brave nor magnanimous. Institute whatever investigations the public interests may seem to require, let them be pushed with the utmost impartiality and thoroughness, and let those who are guilty suffer the consequences of their ill-doing. But let none be branded without sufficient cause, for in such cases it is not the denounced who incur the real ignominy.

ONE of the surprising facts gathered from the census reports is the proportion of churches to the number of inhabitants in different sections of the country. Thus the six New England States with their 3,445,043 white inhabitants, have only five thousand four hundred and twenty-one churches, while the six Southern States lying on the Atlantic, with a white population of 3,450,963, have eleven thousand five hundred and sixty-seven churches, or more than twice as many as New England. The fact is probably not difficult to explain, and is to be referred to the countless number of meeting houses in which the colored people assemble for worship. They are called and really are churches in the recognized popular sense of the word, and though in many cases mere huts or even single rooms, they count as well as the more costly and imposing edifices to which alone or for the most part the term church is applied in New England.

Another rather surprising fact gathered from the same source is the relation of church accommodation to the population in the country. In the thirty-seven States of the Union the number of persons above ten years of age is 27,999,635. At the age of ten years, if not younger, a child is supposed to be old enough regularly to attend church. And yet in the entire Union there are only sixty-two thousand five hundred and twenty-two churches, with seats for twenty-one million three hundred and ninety-five thousand five hundred and forty-nine seats. Hence, if all persons over ten years wished to attend church at the same time, more than five millions would be excluded for want of room. Unfortunately there is small probability that the deficiency of accommodation will soon be brought home to the people in so impressive a way.

THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

The outcry raised over the Credit Mobilier revelations has given rise to the discussion of the question in some of the Eastern papers, whether a member of Congress has not the right, as other people have, to invest his money in the stock of any company that can afford to pay good dividends.

Most certainly yes, if he goes into the open market and buys it, and most certainly not, if the stock is offered to him for the purpose of influencing his judgment as a legislator on questions affecting the company in whose stock he invests. If there had not been some such purpose it is fair to infer that the chance to purchase Credit Mobilier stock at par, when it was worth more than double the amount asked for it, would never have been offered to any member of either House of Congress.

Abstractly speaking, any member of Congress has an undoubted and an unquestionable right to invest his money (if he is so fortunate as to have any) in any stock that pleases him, and it is not to be presumed that any stock he buys in the open market or way of investment that he makes in a business way will warp his judgment or make him a legislator in his own interest, "AS MR. KELLEY says, a member of Congress may deal in wool, or run an iron furnace, or own a rolling mill, and yet sit in the House and vote on tariff measures, without being open to reproach for having so invested his money as to be interested in the result of his acts as a legislator. And if he may be interested in wool, or iron, why not also in stocks?

The question, however, is not in this instance a pertinent one. The iron or wool business is open to any one who chooses to go into it, and the people of the whole country are parties in interest to its success; but the stock of the Credit Mobilier was limited to a favored few. It was not open to general investment. It was not in the open market for sale. And it was offered at a low rate and as a special favor to Congressmen, because they could give votes that would materially benefit the parties offering it.

If the Credit Mobilier had been a reputable company, doing a regular and legitimate business, with its stock open to the public for investment, there would have been no wrong in the purchase of its stock by Congressmen, or any one else. The question is not, Has a member of Congress the same rights, in investing his money, that other people have? but, Has he a right to bind his hands by accepting an investment offered him as a special favor, and only because he is a Congressman?

If this investigation had simply shown that the Credit Mobilier was a legitimate stock company, conducting its business in a legitimate way, no one would have been more surprised to learn that members of Congress were, in common with others, holders of its stock. But, instead of showing that, it has shown on the contrary that the Credit Mobilier is, in itself, a swindle. Its whole existence is a scandal, and therein consists the disgrace of being connected with it.

The testimony of MR. DURANT goes to show that the stockholders in the Union Pacific and its sons in the Credit Mobilier were the same. There were two companies and but one set of stockholders. The Union Pacific had a road to build, and the Credit Mobilier had the contract to build it. If the road had only the money of its stockholders to build itself with, there would have been nothing gained by their forming another company to build it, as they could profit nothing by stealing their *own* money; but the government had issued (at that time) $37,000,000 in bonds to help build the road, and it was to get at *that*, or a share of it, that the Credit Mobilier was formed. The Union Pacific Railroad Company gave to the Credit Mobilier, composed almost exclusively of its own stockholders, a contract to build two hundred and thirty-eight miles of road at a cost to the railroad company of between two and three millions of dollars more than the actual cost of that portion of the road which had already been built, paid for and accepted by the government, and the difference between the cost of the two hundred and thirty-eight miles of road and the amount for which it was let under this contract constituted the assets out of which the dividends were declared to stockholders of the Credit Mobilier.

It is plain from this revelation of MR. DURANT that these two hundred and thirty-eight miles of road could have been built by the company itself, as the other part of the road had been built, at a cost of from two to three millions *less* than what it paid the Credit Mobilier for doing so; but the stockholders of the latter were able to pocket this large sum as members of the Credit Mobilier which they shared not take, directly, as stockholders of the road. They hired themselves to do their own work, and paid themselves a profit of from two to three millions out of the proceeds of government bonds given in aid of the road.

It is *this* feature of the case which is disgraceful, and which has excited the public indignation, and it cannot be turned aside by raising an issue as to the right of Congressmen to make what investments they please. That right is not called in question. But members of Congress, just like other people, must rise or fall by the character of the companies they invest in; and if they invest in a swindling scheme such as the Credit Mobilier confessedly is, they cannot escape the consequences.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT BY THE PEOPLE.

The proposition to elect the President, hereafter, by a direct vote of the people, without the intervention of electors, is a plausible one, and to a certain extent we favor its adoption; but there are several things to be considered, carefully, before assenting conclusively, to the general principle it involves.

Is it meant, for instance, to take the vote, direct, of the entire people of the Union on the Presidency, and declare the person elected who has the most votes in the aggregate, without regard to State lines?

If *that* is the proposition it involves the entire obliteration of the States in electing a President. The people will not vote for that office, by States, but in one mass. The first result of such an obliteration would be an almost irresistible temptation to fraud wherever fraud was possible, in order to swell the vote for particular candidates; and Presidential elections, under such a system, would be attended with more violence, fraud and villainy than has ever yet been dreamed of.

For why? Because, under such a plan, every vote for a candidate would count one for him, and hence the temptation to multiply them, illegally, wherever practicable.

Under our present system the people vote by States, and a majority of 100,000 in Pennsylvania or New York counts no more for the successful candidate than a majority of *one*. Pennsylvania was carried by 343 for HARRISON in 1840 and gave him 26 electoral votes, while the same State was carried for GRANT last year by 137,000 majority, and gave him only 29 electoral votes. The large majority was no more potent than the small.

But under the latter system the majority of 1840 would count only 343, whilst that of 1872 would count 137,000. The result might be that one candidate might carry a majority of the States by small majorities in each, and yet be beaten in the aggregate by an immense majority against him in one or two States. In such a case Pennsylvania and New York might be able to outvote all the other States.

If voting everywhere was fairly conducted, there would not be so much objection to this; but every one will at once see that in a contest where every vote would count directly the fraudulent voting which has grown to be so common in the large cities would be immensely increased. New York city gave 50,000 majority for SEYMOUR, in 1868, and the figures were limited to that point solely because no more were needed to carry the State. If it had been an election by direct vote, and SEYMOUR had needed 150,000 majority in that city to elect him, he would have got it as easily as he got the other majority. The same lawless spirit that gave him one would have given him the other.

Unless, therefore, the new plan can insure us purely honest voting, we had better stick to the plan of voting by States. The fraud in one State, then, will not affect anything but its own vote. The Electoral College can easily be dispensed with. Let the people of each State vote direct for President, and let the majority in each State be counted as equivalent to the number of votes to which such State is entitled in Congress, in the election of President, and we get rid of the elector system, and yet preserve State rights intact. The result would be the same as under our present system, but the people would enjoy the luxury of a direct vote and rid themselves of the perplexity which a choice of electors involves.

So far, we are in favor of the proposed change. But we insist that in any change that may be made the right of the people to vote by States shall not be infringed. The election of President may be greatly simplified; but let us be careful that, in simplifying it, we do not open the door to fraud and a system of ballot-box stuffing that shall utterly eclipse all that we have yet experienced in that line.

PROGRESS BACKWARD.

The almost numberless propositions submitted already to the Constitutional Convention, and which are increasing daily, justify the fear expressed by many when it met, that the result of its labors will be not a Constitution confined to cardinal and general principles, but an instrument loaded down with specific details, and so voluminous as to be both incomprehensible and impracticable. The tendency seems to be to make the organic law apply to every conceivable case in detail, and to cover a digest of laws with the shield of a Constitution.

The purpose in framing such instruments, if properly understood, should be to make it simple, plain, easy of comprehension, and general in all its provisions. Its object should be to define the powers of the government, provide its machinery, and restrain the Legislature within prudent bounds. Beyond that there is no need to go.

But the most notable feature observable in the propositions so far introduced is the unwillingness to trust the people with power. A remarkable instance of this is given in an article proposed by MR. HAY, a Democratic member from this county. He gravely asks that the people shall be deprived of the power of electing Aldermen and Justices of the Peace, and that we shall retrograde two generations, going back to the exploded practice of appointing such Justices by the Governor.

True, MR. HAY adds a new feature to the old plan in requiring that the Courts of Common Pleas shall nominate the Aldermen and Justices to the Governor for appointment; but that, we take it, is the worst feature. Our Courts of Common Pleas are now not only overburdened with business, but loaded down with appointing powers. To add to this the power of appointing Justices of the Peace would be to convert every Judicial court room into a caucus or County Convention, and would eventually bring with it corrupt and corrupting influences, beside endless annoyance to the Judges.

This and kindred propositions spring from an aristocratic distrust of the people. If we follow the political hypocondria which afflicts such men as Judge BLACK and Judge WOODWARD, and take from the people the power to elect Judges, and then give to the Judges appointed by the Governor the power to appoint our Aldermen and Justices of the Peace, we shall be in a fair way to get rid of whatever is republican in our form of government. It may suit men calling themselves Democrats to distrust the people in this way; but it behooves those who call themselves Republicans to show themselves worthy of the name by demonstrating their willingness to trust the people who have trusted them.

Those of our readers who can recall the experience of the times prior to 1838, when we were afflicted with Aldermen and Justices appointed by the Governor, will shrink from any return to *that* folly. The present plan may not be the best attainable, but it is infinitely better than the plan it superceded. Let us have progress, by all means; but let it be forwards, and not backwards.

MR. SHERMAN'S BILL.

The bill of Mr. SHERMAN to provide for a resumption of specie payments and a remedy for our financial troubles, is commended to general attention as a very important measure, and as indicating the current of the prevalent feeling on this subject. It may not, and probably will not, pass in the shape thus presented; but there are unmistakable proofs that the general plan it involves comes very near to the conclusions which most thinking men have arrived at.

It is an experiment; but it seems necessary to venture on some experiment in order to meet the prevalent clamor for, not merely more currency, but for the adoption of some system which will give elasticity to the supply of it, so that it may contract or expand according to public necessity.

That the bill will lead to a resumption of specie payments is questionable. If the National banks are allowed to issue money, *ad libitum*, with power to redeem their notes either in coin or legal tender, can the government redeem its legal tender in coin without a supply of coin from some source as yet hidden from view? Will not the first effect of the experiment be to fund the legal tenders, and to supply their place with National bank notes redeemable, not in coin, but in the legal tenders they will have supplanted? True, the government is authorized to reissue its legal tenders; but will it reissue them only to have them immediately presented to be again funded or redeemed in coin?

We do not ask these questions captiously, but as suggestions. The subject involves the entire business interests of the country, and demands to be looked at in all its aspects. What the country wants, now, is to try to find *some* way out of its present difficulties, and the only thing the country can do is to look at the whole question carefully and thoroughly, try the first plan that seems practicable, and keep on trying until it succeeds. We cannot, as a people, go on with the present plan. The monetary condition of the nation is its reproach as well as its perplexity. The business men cannot be held much longer hanging by the eyelids. They can now neither go on nor stand still without injury to themselves. This plan of Mr. SHERMAN'S seems to meet the wishes and views of most of those who are painfully waiting for a change; and, therefore, we say, try it, if nothing better offers, and so bring to a practical test the several financial theories which are involved, wholly or partially, in its provisions.

We have great confidence in Mr. SHERMAN'S financial judgment. He is a clear-headed, far-sighted man; not wedded to theories or hobbies, but ready to adapt his views to the prevalent judgment of the country, and able to realize what that judgment is. The bill he has presented is a modification of Mr. BUCKINGHAM'S and embodies the conclusions of the majority of the Finance Committee of the Senate, as well as of the leading financial minds of the country. We know that Congress will discuss it in the right spirit, and we commend it to the careful consideration of our readers. There is not much time left to act on it; but there is enough to act on it wisely: and to act on it promptly seems to be alike the dictate of prudence and necessity.

A NEW RAILROAD DEPARTURE.

We have several times of late adverted to the fact that the country has outgrown its means of transportation, and stands in need of a large increase in these agencies. Indeed, there is little question that one of the principal reasons of the existing high rates of freight is, that the railways are choked with traffic, and that instead of the roads seeking for freights, freights are clamoring for carriage. The only adequate remedy for this state of things is a multiplication of carriers, and it is a somewhat noticeable fact that nearly all the oldest trunk lines in the country are making active preparations for increasing their carrying capacity by means of extra tracks. The New York Central proposes to lay, in addition to its present double track, two other tracks. Of these four lines, two will be devoted to passenger trains and two to freight trains. The Erie is planning for a third rail. The Michigan Central has passed its cash dividend, for the first time in many years, that it may use its profits for enlarging its power, giving its stockholders new stock in place of the cash; while the Michigan Southern has issued six millions of new bonds for the same purpose, and the Rock Island and Northwestern roads find themselves justified in even greater enlargements of their capital accounts through the demands of their increasing business. The great advantages of these plans are readily discernible, inasmuch as not only will the carrying capacity of the roads be largely increased, but the cost of transportation will also be considerably diminished. Nor is the Pennsylvania Central behind its rivals. A third track is now being laid along the mountain division of this line, which in the end will unquestionably be carried throughout its whole length. It is intimated, indeed, that the improvement will go on until all classes of business—bringing, as it does, our freight, through passengers and way passengers—shall each have a separate track. At all events it is not probable that a road which has earned so enviable a reputation all over the country will permit itself to be outdone in the way of improvements by any competing line. It is not impossible that the transportation question may yet be solved by the rule of competition, since when once the separation of freight and passenger traffic shall have been effected on any one road, there will hardly be a railroad of importance in the country that will not, sooner or later, be compelled to follow suit.

AN AMERICAN BONAPARTE.

The speculations which the death of the Emperor NAPOLEON have excited concerning the possible successor to the French throne, should the Empire ever again be re-established, lend a new and curious interest to the remarkable history of the venerable MRS. ELIZABETH PATTERSON, of Baltimore, wife of JEROME BONAPARTE, the younger brother of the first NAPOLEON. In 1803, JEROME was sent by his brother, then First Consul of France, to sea in a man-of-war, which, in the course of its cruise, touched at Baltimore. He was there introduced to MISS PATTERSON, who was the daughter of a wealthy merchant, and possessed of great personal beauty and attractions. He proposed for her hand, was accepted, and the marriage was celebrated in due form by the Catholic Bishop of that diocese. When the news of the marriage reached NAPOLEON he threw him into a paroxysm of rage. He was then contemplating his accession to the throne of France as Emperor, and was desirous of strengthening himself with the royal families of the continent through the marriage of his relatives. Under a law passed during his Consulate, his consent was required for the marriage of all the members of the BONAPARTE family. He, therefore, forbade his brother bringing his wife into France, and she was left in England. She never saw her husband after that. The Emperor declared the marriage void, and JEROME was soon afterwards married to the daughter of the King of Wurtemberg, and placed on the throne of Westphalia. His first wife returned to Baltimore with her son, who had been born in England. He died in 1870, leaving two children, Colonel JEROME BONAPARTE, who graduated at West Point, but subsequently became an officer in the French army, being treated by LOUIS NAPOLEON as a near relative of the Imperial family; and CHARLES JOSEPH BONAPARTE, at present a law student at Harvard College. Their grandmother, who is now in her ninetieth year, has at all times watched the political condition of France with intense interest, freely declaring the right of the eldest to the throne in the event of the death of the Emperor and the Prince Imperial; and she now expresses her confident belief of the success, in the not distant future, of the dreams and aspirations to which she has persistently clung for a period of seventy years. It is a strange story, with more elements of pathos in it than would seem to lie upon the surface.

A BILL has been introduced in the Missouri Legislature, the object of which is to break up that great and growing evil, the carrying of concealed weapons. It makes it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than twenty dollars, nor more than one hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail not less than five nor more than twenty days, for any person to go into a church or religious assembly, school room, educational meeting, ball, party or social gathering, to any election precinct on election day, court room during session of court, or any other public assembly, armed with a deadly weapon. Such a law as this should be enacted in every State and rigidly enforced. It would materially decrease the danger of homicides, a great majority of which grow out of the vicious practice of bearing arms.

WHILE Matilda Heron was on her way to the East from San Francisco, the train on which she was traveling was boarded at Sacramento by a reporter, who catechised her upon all sorts of subjects. As to the object of her journey, she was going to New York to do a service for a friend, and this is the way she stated that service, according to the reporter: "A woman died leaving a good-sized fortune to a real daughter. This daughter our family brought up; mother and daughter never knew each other, but the lady adopted another child; both grew to womanhood; the adopted child married—ran away with a man whom the lady did not like, so she cut her off in her will for the real daughter. I am to prove the identity of that child."

FROM the 23d of September to the 31st of December, 1872, there were shipped eastward from Dodge City Station, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, 43,629 buffalo hides, and 1,436,290 pounds of buffalo meat. This result of three months' work of those who devote their time to the destruction of the buffalo foreshadows the early extinction of this species of game. The buffaloes that are killed in summer or in early autumn in wanton cruelty, miscalled sport, and for food for the frontier residents, are not taken into the above account. It is estimated that the entire number killed around the station of Fort Dodge during 1872 was fully 100,000.

THE cider question is to the temperance men of Maine a prominent topic for discussion as the beer question is to their brethren of Massachusetts, and they are not quite in accord as to what legislation is necessary. At a large convention held in Augusta most of the time was occupied in discussing a resolution on this question, and a vote was finally obtained in favor of such a modification of the Prohibitory law as will "abolish cider tippling."

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The pioneer vessel of the line of steamers plying between Antwerp and Philadelphia, sailed from the former port last Saturday; returning, she will leave Philadelphia February 15th. She is 2,800 tons. The other two steamers of the line, the Nederland and Switzerland, each 3,000 tons, are building and nearly completed.

That nervous youth in Louisville who recently, by mistake, slipped a nickel five cent piece into the parson's hand, instead of a five dollar gold piece, which he had ready in another pocket, after three weeks of wedded bliss, thinks he paid pretty dear for his fun after all, and regrets that the nickel was not a suspender button.

At the present time not a single box of tin is manufactured in the United States, although it is claimed that there are large deposits of this valuable metal in New Hampshire, Missouri, and the Lake Superior region. A company has recently been organized to develop these home resources, and it is to be hoped that success will attend their efforts.

The entire production of anthracite coal in this State in 1872 is estimated at 18,400,000 tons, an increase of 3,280,000 tons, or 21 per cent., as compared with the previous year.

The January interest on the bonds of the State of Louisiana will not be paid, at present at least, owing to the fact that taxes have not been collected to provide for the same. A very good reason, and, considering the condition of political affairs in Louisiana, this default is not strange.

Six thousand men are now grading the Texas Pacific Railroad, and track laying will begin as soon as the rise in the Red river enables the necessary supplies to be brought up.

The new army register, just issued, reports that during last year there were 36 resignations, 10 commissions vacated by new appointments, 4 commissions cancelled, 32 deaths, 2 officers retired, 4 dismissed, 5 cashiered and 16 honorably discharged.

Reports from the various fruit regions indicate that the prospect of the crops has not been materially injured by the terrible severity of the winter thus far.

A sanguine young Kansasian had faith in his ability to make himself the receptacle of four pints of raw whisky within fifteen minutes. Upon his neat and ornamented tombstone, now in process of erection, will be inscribed the simple epitaph, "He smiled and died."

Iowa has a law making it a penitentiary offense for any public officer to use State funds for private purposes, and a very good law it is, too, if they would only enforce it.

Teaching a convict a good and profitable trade, and educating him to habits of industry are long strides toward a reformation of character. A colored man was in the South Carolina penitentiary for a short term, to whom the Superintendent taught the trade of polishing marble. A leading marble manufacturer of New York saw him, and being pleased with his workmanship, engaged him as soon as his term expired, at five dollars a day. This was several years ago, and he is with the same firm yet.

A Massachusetts man who, for many years, had suffered from defective sight and hearing, fell into the hold of a vessel the other day, and now sees and hears as well as anybody. The shock did it.

Said the little son of a prominent Baltimore divine to his father the other day: "Pa, Sir, Bill was a Yankee." "What do you know of that, my son?" "Why, sir, in the 18th verse of the 5th chapter of Romans he says: 'For I reckon.' None but Yankees say reckon."

It is proposed to introduce in Congress at an early date a bill to compel railroads to equip their passenger trains with a power brake, which will place them completely in control of the engineer.

The "cider clause" is what is troubling the Maine politicians. They are obliged to take one side or t'other.

Australian travel and trade in a few months will be passing through the United States on its way to the Old World and back. A company has been formed in England to run a new line of steamers between Melbourne and San Francisco. Arrangements have been made with the trans-continental railroads and the electric telegraph lines that a message through trip to London to be made in forty-two days.

Domestic pigeons that feed upon the refuse of the breweries are said to have a strong flavor of malt when converted into pies. This, in connection with the peculiar gait of those birds, is a novel combination of malt and hops.

A contract has been signed in London to lay a submarine cable between Rio de Janeiro and the cities of the river Plate. This cable is for the Platino-Brazileira Telegraph Company. It is to be laid within six months and the capital has been entirely subscribed in South America.

The Mobile *Register* lays the blame of the "present defeat and humiliation of the Democratic Party" upon the Missouri *Republican* and Louisville *Courier-Journal*, and says: "The first hour in which the words 'New Departure' were printed, in that hour the wedge was entered that, little by little, was at last driven home to the riving of the Democratic party."

The question of languages is bothering the Legislature of Illinois. It is proposed to print the Governor's message in the German, the Scandinavian and other languages.

The Boston Board of Trade has appointed a committee to take cognizance of all matters relating to settlements with insurance companies, of the losses occasioned by the late fire.

The Secretary of the New York Children's Aid Society contradicts the report that the society is colonizing Mr. Greeley's will. The only contestants are the executors of the will of 1871.

The announcement has been officially made that, in accordance with a special request, all articles sent for exhibition at Vienna will receive patents of protection against imitation.

Chicago has two Bessemer steel works, and one is building at Joliet, making three in the State of Illinois.

The idea of extending the cautionary signals to the high seas has recently taken practical shape in the proposal to establish a floating observatory off the Atlantic sea-board.

Last week a Detroit boy of ten years and a girl of nine set out into the country to get married. After walking four miles they called at a farmer's house and requested "the up-stairs." The farmer procured help, loaded the kittens into his wagon, and returned them to the city. Chicago may now throw up the sponge on precocity.

PERSONAL.

Robert T. Lincoln denies that his mother has presented to anybody the Bible presented to the late President by colored people of the South. He says that she has no intention of parting with it.

News from Livingstone, dated November 30, state that the last train of supplies sent out had reached him, and that he has begun another march into the interior of Africa.

The wife of Senator Morton is in a critical condition at Washington.

Bierstadt, the artist, has built himself an observatory on a hill near San Francisco, where every evening he perches himself for the purpose of studying sunset effects.

The wife of Governor Safford, of Arizona, has sued for a divorce on the ground of abandonment. A San Francisco paper suggests that the Governor has been so intent upon his battle with the Apaches that he has had no time to devote to domestic duties; but the same paper adds: "Mrs. Safford is young, intellectual, high-bred and delicately sensitive, while the Governor—well, the Governor is not."

The following list is given of colored men holding prominent State offices: South Carolina has Lieutenant Governor R. H. Gleaves and State Treasurer F. L. Cardozo. Louisiana has Lieutenant Governor Cæsar C. Antoine; Superintendent of Public Education, William C. Brown. Of Members of Congress the colored people have P. B. S. Pinchback, of Louisiana; John R. Lynch, Mississippi; R. H. Cain, Joseph H. Rainey, Alonzo J. Ransier, Robert B. Elliott, South Carolina; James T. Rapier, Alabama; J. T. Walls, Florida.

The oldest man in the world has at length been discovered. His name is Jose Martino Continho, a resident of Cape Frio, in the province of Rio Janeiro, Brazil, who was born on the 20th of May, 1694, and is therefore nearly one hundred and ninety-four years old! It is said that he has forty-two children by six wives, and can count one hundred and twenty-three grandchildren, eighty-six great-grandchildren, twenty-three great-great-grandchildren, and twenty children of the last.

It is reported from New York that the health of Governor Dix is in a precarious state. He is an old man. The cares of a high executive office are a heavy burden. Men who are over seventy years of age are entitled to repose, and Governor Dix, by a long life of public service, has earned the right to enjoy it. Probably no one in the country feels a keener desire for relirement than he. Yet his impulses are nobly patriotic, and he is willing, if need be, to die in harness for the public good. We hope his life may be prolonged, and his health restored for the sake of a wise administration in the Empire State.

Copenhagen papers record the death of Professor Frederick Sibern, who has filled the chair of Philosophy in the Danish University since 1813. He was a friend of Fichte, Schleiermacher, Oken, Schelling and Hegel.

An autograph letter of Henry Clay was sold in Terre Haute on Saturday for fifty cents. Oh, the ingratitude of republics!

THE LUMBER BUSINESS.

Williamsport the Great Lumber Manufactory of the East—Some Interesting Statistics.

[From the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin, 18th.]

Williamsport is the largest lumber manufacturing point east of Michigan, and the indications are that the trade will continue to increase for years to come. Few persons, without carefully examining the statistics, have a correct idea of the magnitude of our lumber traffic, and the amount of capital invested in the business. For the information of all concerned we reproduce from our reports since 1869 the following table showing the total shipments each year:

Years.	Catawissa.	P. & E.	Canal.	Total.
1869...	36,923,899	21,734,574	128,719,276	186,677,850
1870...	66,156,927	55,059,251	129,543,600	250,764,078
1871...	69,606,800	65,727,592	134,539,000	269,863,392
1872...	74,974,542	49,719,133	72,386,658	197,080,333
Total	246,955,189	192,240,250	465,189,534	904,391,953

It is proper to state that the report of shipments for 1869 only embraces nine months of the year, from April to December, inclusive. During these three years and nine months it appears that 904,384,953 feet were shipped from this city. Our reports are made from the shipping books of the railroad companies, and the clearances at the office of the canal. All lumber shipped by rail is billed in pounds, and the railroad men estimate that 2,500 pounds will equal 1,000 feet of lumber on an average. All boards, green and seasoned, hemlock, pickets, lath, doors, sash, &c., are embraced in these reports of weight, and reduced to feet, so that the true amount is arrived at as nearly as possible. The clearances by boat are in feet.

From the above report it will be seen that the shipments for 1872 fell below those of 1871 just 72,782,759 feet. The heaviest shipments were made in 1871, when the total amount reached 269,863,392 feet.

The amount of lumber rafted out of the boom, according to the books of the company, since 1869, the period embraced in the above table of shipments, is as follows:

Years.	No. of Logs.	Ft. Bd. Meas.
1869	1,030,511	225,060,305
1870	1,099,177	225,180,973
1871	852,129	166,661,181
1872	1,484,068	297,185,652
Total	4,816,520	912,088,111

This shows a difference between the shipments and the quantity rafted out of the boom for the manufacturers during those four years of only 7,703,158 feet. Rather a close margin, where hundreds of millions are involved.

The following table of stocks on hand at the beginning of each year since 1870, is made up from the "official" report of the Lumbermen's Exchange, in this city, and although the amounts are merely "estimates," they are doubtless sufficiently accurate for our purposes:

Years.	Pine.	Hemlock.	Lath.	Pickets.
1870	134,166,157	6,088,000	27,617,200	1,653,985
1871	122,505,694	5,737,000	33,504,800	2,646,150
1872	50,550,603	2,832,500	12,647,600	1,65.,815
1873	137,949,907	8,807,440	39,966,709	2,273,780
Total	445,172,361	23,474,940	113,886,400	8,260,310

The pine and hemlock represents feet—the lath and pickets represent pieces. By adding the pine and hemlock we have a total of 468,647,301 feet "over" for the period of four years. The shipments during this period, it will be remembered, were 904,384,953 feet.

According to the "official" report of stock on hand at the beginning of 1873, based on estimates, we have the following, which we bring down from the table above:

	Feet.
Pine	137,949,907
Hemlock	8,807,440
Total stock on hand 1873	146,757,347

At the beginning of 1872 the following stock was reported on hand according to the "official" table:

	Feet.
Pine	50,550,603
Hemlock	2,832,500
Total	53,383,103

This amount forms a basis for the operations of 1872, and enables us to present the following result, which would seem to be correct, if any reliance can be placed on figures, and grave mathematicians inform us they cannot lie:

Stock on hand, January, 1872	53,383,103
Rafted out of boom, 1872	297,185,652
Total for year	350,568,755
Shipped during 1872	197,080,633
Stock on hand, January, 1873	153,488,122

The above would seem to be the correct amount on hand, if figures can be relied on, taking the "official" report and comparing it with the above, we have the following difference:

	Feet.
Stock on hand by the above table	153,488,122
"Official" report of Exchange	146,757,347
Difference	6,730,775

The discrepancy remains to be explained, although it may be said that less than seven millions of feet is a small matter where hundreds of millions are involved. The statements, however, don't balance. Perhaps the difference may be somewhere reposing in the "pickets" of the manufacturers.

From the "estimate" of lumber as furnished "officially" to the Exchange, we close with the following table of stock on hand at the different marts January 1st, 1873:

	Feet.
Williamsport	146,757,347
Lock Haven	34,868,641
Port Deposit	4,000,000
Baltimore	3,000,000
Philadelphia	10,818,990
Stock on hand, 1873	198,145,078

Lock Haven reports 5,163,000 lath and 1,363,000 pickets on hand. A stock of nearly two hundred millions of feet to commence the operations of 1873 with is very respectable indeed, and shows clearly that the lumber interest is one of vast proportions and requires a capital of nearly millions of dollars to carry it on successfully.

THE CENSUS OF 1870.

Changes of Population in Ten Years.

The following statistics, from full returns of the ninth census, are interesting:

	1870.		1860.	
	Popu'n.	Rank.	Popu'n.	Rank.
Alabama	996,992	19	964,201	13
Arkansas	484,471	26	435,450	25
California	560,247	24	379,994	26
Connecticut	537,454	25	460,147	24
Delaware	125,015	34	112,216	33
Florida	187,748	32	140,424	31
Georgia	1,184,109	12	1,057,286	11
Illinois	2,539,891	4	1,711,951	4
Indiana	1,680,637	6	1,350,428	7
Iowa	1,194,020	11	674,913	20
Kansas	364,399	29	107,206	34
Kentucky	1,321,011	8	1,155,684	9
Louisiana	726,915	21	708,002	17
Maine	626,915	23	628,279	22
Maryland	780,894	20	687,049	19
Massachusetts	1,457,351	7	1,231,066	10
Michigan	1,184,059	13	749,113	16
Minnesota	439,706	28	172,023	30
Mississippi	827,922	18	791,306	15
Missouri	1,721,295	5	1,182,012	8
Nebraska	122,993	33	28,841	35
Nevada	42,491	37	6,857	37
New Hampshire	318,300	31	326,073	27
New Jersey	906,096	17	672,035	21
New York	4,382,759	1	3,880,735	1
North Carolina	1,071,361	14	992,622	12
Ohio	2,665,260	3	2,339,511	3
Oregon	90,923	36	52,645	34
Pennsylvania	3,521,951	2	2,906,215	2
Rhode Island	217,353	32	174,648	29
South Carolina	705,606	22	703,767	18
Tennessee	1,258,520	9	1,109,801	10
Texas	818,579	19	604,215	23
Vermont	330,551	30	315,098	28
Virginia	1,225,163	10	1,219,630	5
Wisconsin	1,054,670	15	775,881	15
West Virginia	441,514	27	376,688	24
Total	38,115,641		31,181,744	
Arizona	9,658		6,482	
Colorado	39,864		34,277	
Columbia	131,700		75,080	
Dakota	14,181		4,837	
Idaho	14,999			
Montana	20,595			
New Mexico	91,874		87,094	
Utah	86,786		40,273	
Washington	23,955		11,594	
Wyoming	9,118			
Total Territories	442,379		258,577	
Grand Total	38,558,371		31,443,321	

*Virginia and West Virginia were not divided in 1860, and together ranked 5, as marked opposite Virginia.

California Wine.

It is estimated that the last wine crop of California will not exceed 8,000,000 gallons in place of 20,000,000 as anticipated by over sanguine persons. The Petaluma *Journal* furnishes a statement of the production in Sonoma county for seven years, basing its figures for last season's yield upon the estimates of previous years. Sonoma stands in the first rank, with Los Angeles, as a grape-growing county, and her increase may, in some respects, be taken as a guide, by comparison, of the proportionate increase in other counties. Following is the *Journal's* table:

Years.	No. of Vines.	Galls Brandy.	Galls Wine.
1867		4,454	145,357
1865	2,865,297	6,545	348,136